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ABSTRACT

This book contains the traditional tales and beliefs of the Chippewa, Dogrib, Slavey, and Loucheux peoples. These histories and traditions were spoken to a priest named Emile Petitot (1838-1916) who wrote the words down in the Dene language. This edition was translated from the French and compared with versions in the original tongues by the Northwest Territories Department of Education. Contents include origin myths about creation, the first man and woman, the naming of animals, a great flood and the repopulation of the earth afterward, the multiplication of language, tribal origins, the discovery of copper, the first canoe and sailor, and the first war. Other tales concern wars with the Eskimos and other enemies, the coming of the French, and appropriate social or ritual behaviors. (SV)

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THE BOOK OF DENE

Containing the traditions and beliefs of

Chipewyan,
Dogrib,
Slavey,
and Loucheux peoples.

Translated from French and compared
with versions in the original tongues by

Programme Development Division
Department of Education
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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BOOK OF DENE

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These books are the books of Dene. In them are the histories, tales and traditions of the Dene. In them is contained the wisdom of the Dene. Just as in the bible you will find the histories, tales and traditions of the people of Israel as told by Moses and other storytellers, so in this book you will find the histories, tales and traditions of the Dene as told by Dene a hundred years ago. They were spoken to a priest called Emile Petitot (1838-1916) who wrote the words down in the Dene language.

BOOK OF CHIPEWYANS
(CHIPEWYAN)

CHAPTER 1
THE FIRST MAN

IN the beginning, man did not exist.

2 Then suddenly there was man, it is said.

3 Who made man?

4 We do not know.

5 When winter came, man made himself some snowshoes.

6 "How am I going to do it?" he wondered.

7 He did not really know, but he cut down a birch tree and eventually made a frame.

8 The following day he put in the bars and they were almost complete.

9 "How will I do the lattice work?" he thought, for he had no woman to do it for him.

10 He lay down in his tent to sleep and when he awoke in the morning he saw that his snowshoes had been partially laced.

11 "Who could have laced my snowshoes while I was asleep?" he said to himself, for there was no one else around.

12 The next night he again lay down to sleep and in the morning he saw that a little more of the lattice work had been done.

13 "Now who has done this?" he thought.

14 He looked up at the tent roof and saw a partridge flying away.

15 "Ah! It must have been the partridge!" he thought.

16 Again the next night the man went to sleep and at daybreak there were the snowshoes almost completely laced and again he glimpsed the partridge flying away.

17 "I know what I shall do," he said to himself. That evening he covered the top of the tent with a skin.

18 Then he lay down to sleep.

19 When he awoke next morning the snowshoes were complete and were lying beside him.

20 The partridge thought, "I must fly away quickly," but the tent top was blocked up and she could not escape.

21 The partridge was turned into a beautiful woman with long silky hair.

22 The man and woman slept together, of course, and in time they had many children.

23 We are their descendants.

24 That is the end of the story.

CHAPTER 2
MAN

AT one time, all creatures were the same, except one who was called Man. He separated all the creatures and gave them names and colouring.

2 At last there was only one feathered creature remaining.

3 "And what do you want to be?" the man asked him.

4 The feathered one said, "I want to be a pretty, pretty bird."

5 "And so you shall be - there!" said the man.

6 "Oh no, I'm not pretty!" retorted the bird.

7 "Yes you are! This is how you will be."

8 "No it's not - I am not beautiful yet."

9 For a long time the bird argued with the man until at last the man lost his temper, grabbed the bird, and rolled him in the dust and ashes of the fire till his feathers were smudged and blackened.

10 And that is why to this day this bird has no colour - Dirty Feathers, we call him.

11 Dirty Feathers (or Raven) was furious and flew far away from the man.

12 As he flew he saw a tiny bird and grabbed its beak and squeezed it very hard till he almost throttled it.

13 That is why the prairie chicken does not have a pretty voice and also why his feathers are dark.

14 At that time, all the creatures on earth lived in harmony and they talked and listened to man.

15 In those days, man lived for ever and did not die.

16 However, it happened eventually that by continual walking one man wore out his feet and thus he died.

17 Another man ate so much and so fast that he choked and died too.

18 From then on, man has always died from some cause or another.

CHAPTER 3
THE STORY OF TWO BROTHERS

WHEN the earth was new, there was an old man who had two sons.

2 One day he said to them, "My sons, I want you to take a canoe and go hunting for we have no more food.

3 You should go towards the west for that is where we originally came from and there you will be happy."

4 His sons loaded their canoe and set off as the father had commanded, for far-away lands.

5 After paddling for four days, they came upon a huge waterfall known as the Whirling Gulf.

6 They shot a number of ducks but it was soon dark.

7 They realized they were in an unknown land and had wandered far from home.

8 During the days which followed, the brothers wandered further and further into unknown territory.

9 They followed the River and ducks were plentiful so they were not short of food.

10 Eventually they reached a huge mountain, called The Mountain Which Contains Men, so it was said.

11 "Brother, this land is quite unlike our own," said the younger man. "In which direction does our home lie?"

12 "Alas, brother, I have no idea. But don't worry - let's just keep walking!"

13 Suddenly, the brothers could hear men's voices coming out of the ground.

14 They were on the shores of a great lake where Giants lived and they realized the voices must belong to these Giants.

15 In front of the mountain two Giant children were playing and the conical shaped mountain was their tent.

16 "Oh look! Dwarfs!" exclaimed the children.

17 They ran, laughing, to the two brothers, picked them up and carried them in their hands to their parents' house.

18 "Look father! Look mother! See these men-dwarfs we found beside the water!" they shouted.

19 "Hush now, don't make fun of them, children," said the father.

20 To the brothers he said, "You may live here with us.

21 You will be quite safe and no harm will come to you."

22 The giant gave each of them an enormous trout and trout's eyes.

23 So the brothers remained for a long time at the Inhabited Mountain beside the great lake.

24 Each day they went fishing, with hooks and nets with the young giants and they were never without food.

25 However, eventually they grew restless and they decided to leave.

26 When they announced their intention to the giant he replied, "As you wish!"

27 He gave them pemmican to eat, made from fish, and he also gave them two arrows.

28 He told them, "This arrow is the male; you must shoot the male elk with it, and with this other arrow, which is

the female, you must shoot the female elk.

29 These arrows are extremely powerful and will return to you of their own accord.

30 When you have fired them, on no account must you go to retrieve them, for they will come back unaided.

31 If you do retrieve them, much evil will befall you, I'm afraid."

32 "Right!" said the brothers, and they set out once more, in a westerly direction as the giant had told them that this was where their own land lay.

33 After a short while, the younger brother saw a squirrel sitting in a tall pine tree.

34 "I'm going to shoot it," he said and he fired his arrow.

35 Then he ran to retrieve the arrow.

36 "I must fetch it," he thought.

37 "Stop brother! Don't get the arrow," cautioned the older man. "Remember the giant's warning to us - it will be terrible to disobey."

38 But the younger was stubborn - "It's my arrow and I can fetch it if I want to," he said.

39 He reached out to grab the arrow, but it moved higher up.

40 "I can reach it," he said, confidently, but suddenly the arrow moved up again.

41 "Just let me get it," he thought, but the arrow kept moving steadily higher up.

42 Finally it was carried away into the sky and the young man was carried away with it and he disappeared quickly from sight.

43 In the sky there is an earth like ours which is very beautiful.

44 The young man arrived there in winter and there was much snow on the ground.

45 He could not see any animals in the snow.

46 There was also a wide roadway which was lined with fruit trees and there were also several guide posts by the roadside.

47 A pair of new snowshoes were stuck in a snow bank, so the brother put them on and set off down the winding road till he reached a big tent.

48 Inside there were three women.

49 The oldest one said to him: "Son-in-law, I have two terrible daughters who deceive and cheat men.

50 Have nothing to do with them, don't sleep with them, don't even look at them."

51 Having said this, she then took a piece of coal and blackened his face with it.

52 "My two daughters certainly won't fall in love with him now," she thought.

53 That evening the two lovely daughters arrived home from hunting.

54 The older of the two was called, "Bosom Full of Weasels" and the younger, "Bosom Full of Mice."

55 When they saw the young man they laughed at him and made fun of his black face.

56 The old lady was very happy but the following morning after the man washed his face and the two daughters saw that he was very handsome, they immediately fell in love with him.

57 Both said to each other, "He's mine - I want him to marry me!"

58 The old lady was defeated and the two girls led the youth to their bed and slept with him.

59 After only one night, though, the man was swallowed up into the ground and vanished.

60 "Poor thing! You've taken another very fine young man away from me, you wicked girls!" said the old woman.

61 It so happened that a wolf was passing by and smelled the human scent.

63 Where the man was buried he began to dig into the ground with his paws and by and by he uncovered the man, who was revived.

63 Then the man waited beside the path for the girls to come along.

64 He vowed to kill Bosom Full Of Mice, but it was impossible to slay her for she could not die.

65 But when her clothes were torn to shreds, the creatures which had been living in her bosom spilled out onto the ground and ran away.

66 There were mice, moles, snakes, and worms.

67 From that time on there has been much evil on the earth, so it is said.

68 Since then there has been disease, famine, poverty, death and cold, all because the first man and the first woman disobeyed a command.

69 For this reason we kill mice, moles and all wild animals for they are dangerous to man.

70 The old lady who lived in the tent said to the man, "Trust me and I shall make sure you return safely to your own country.

71 I know where there is a hole in this 'upper earth' through which you can descend. I will guide you to it."

72 Then she cut a skin into strips and made a long rope which she tied under the man's armpits.

73 Then she took him to where there was a hole in the sky and let him down through the hole.

74 "When your feet touch the ground, let go of the rope immediately," she told him.

75 So she let out the rope and the man descended far down to the lower earth.

76 It was a long way, but the rope was very long.

77 At last his feet touched the ground.

78 "I've reached the ground!" he shouted and let go of the rope.

79 She immediately pulled it back up into the sky.

80 But alas! The man had not reached the ground after all.

81 He had landed in an eagle's nest. In fact, it was the eyrie of an enormous white bird known as The Immense One, who devoured human flesh. All around the man the nest was strewn with human bones, whitened by the sun.

82 The man looked down, but the earth was far away and he could not get down to it.

83 However, only the Immense One's son was in the nest, alone.

84 Apparently he took pity on the man, for he said to him, "Hide yourself under my wings, brother-in-law.

85 When daylight comes my father will fly back here, and when night falls my mother will come."

86 He gave a loud cry and concealed the man under his wings.

87 Day broke and the Immense One flew into the nest.

88 "Ha! There is a very strong human smell here," said the great white eagle, sniffing as he spoke.

89 "Isn't it wonderful that each day you bring me human flesh to eat!" replied the son.

90 The father flew away and the man breathed again.

91 Not long afterwards, though, the eaglet gave a loud cry, night fell and his mother arrived.

92 In her claws she grasped a chunk of human flesh.

93 "What's going on? The smell of human flesh is very strong here!" said the female eagle, sniffing the air.

94 "Oh mother, don't you agree that it's marvellous you bring human flesh here every day?" said her son.

95 The eaglet protected the man for a long time, but eventually his father guessed what was happening.

96 "I'm going to kill that man!" he said angrily.

97 "Who is this miserable mortal who makes fun of me in my own nest!" he thought.

98 His son, however, said, "I have protected this man and if you don't spare him, then I shall throw myself out of the nest to the ground."

99 Not wishing to see his son die, Olbale took pity on the man.

100 The eaglet said to the man, "It is impossible for you to stay here any longer, for my father could kill you any moment without my knowing.

101 Here, take my wing feathers, put

them on your body and try to fly around my eyrie.

102 Try to fly three times around it, and if you succeed you will be able to fly back to your own land."

103 The man fastened the feathers to his arms and legs and tried to fly.

104 It was very difficult at first and he fell down.

105 The eaglet helped him up and said, "Look, this is how you do it, like this!"

106 The man eventually learnt to fly, aided by the advice of the eaglet.

107 Finally, he was able to fly three times round the nest with ease, and then he immediately set out on the flight back to his own country, using the eaglet's feathers.

108 That's the end of the story.

CHAPTER 4
THE END OF THE WORLD

IN the beginning, people used to live just as we do now, hunting, fishing, eating, drinking and husbands sleeping with their wives.

2 When winter came, there was a great fall of snow and the human heart was troubled.

3 There was so much snow that only the tops of the tall pine trees were showing and it was impossible to do anything.

4 All the animals wanted to leave for warmer places.

5 At that time, men and animals lived together and frequently conversed and they must have discussed the idea of going somewhere warmer.

6 The earth was frozen over, just like a huge glacier and people and animals were dying from the cold.

7 The squirrel, who was more agile than the others, climbed to the top of a tall pine and made a hole in the sky with his paws.

8 Daylight flooded into the earth.

9 "The squirrel is the Chief!" cried everyone.

10 But the squirrel went a little too close to the sun and his back was burned to reddish gold and he has remained that colour to this day.

11 So it would seem that the squirrel created light.

12 Before him there was nothing but cold and darkness on the earth, and for that reason he is a great chieftan.

13 Now, it was the bear who covered the Upper Earth, and there he also controlled warmth and light.

14 The bear said to the squirrels, "If you could see, would you hunt?"

15 The sky, which was like a skin, had a hole where darkness penetrated.

16 It was the bear who made night, for he liked darkness and warmth.

17 The bear was not a good creature.

18 With his son, he kept control over warmth, at the beginning of time.

19 There was a tree in the middle of the Upper Earth where the bear had hung a bag containing warmth and he guarded this tree well.

20 In fact, there were many bags on this tree: one bag contained warmth, another rain, a third snow, a storm in a fourth, fine weather in another, cold in another and hail in yet another.

21 "Let's take the bag of warmth!" thought everyone, but this was easier said than done.

22 The bear and his son kept a constant watch at the foot of the tree.

23 "Which of us will take down the bag of warmth?" they asked one another.

24 "Who is the strong man who can defeat the bear?"

25 The caribou stepped forward: "I will do it," he said, "for I am swift on my feet."

26 So the caribou swam towards the bear, for the tree was on an island, and unfastened the sack before the bear could grab him.

27 The bear threw his canoe in the water and paddled after the caribou.

28 The caribou was swimming as fast as he could when all of a sudden the bear's paddle broke in his paws and the caribou was able to reach safety.

29 The mouse said, "It is because of me that the paddle broke for during the night I gnawed it almost in two."

30 The group set out to return to Lower Earth, carrying the warmth in its bag.

31 It was a heavy load and they carried it with the aid of a stick.

32 It is a long way from Upper to the Lower Earth and often they stopped to sleep.

33 One night while they were camped, the mouse decided to repair her shoes, which were in shreds.

34 Unknown to the rest of the party, she cut a small piece of skin from the bag.

35 Alas! Tragedy! As soon as the bag was cut, all the warmth poured out, and immediately the snow, of which there was a great deal, began to melt.

36 It melted so fast that the earth was flooded and even the tallest mountains were submerged.

37 There was a little old man, with white hair, who had foreseen this, however, and he had said to his family, "Let's make a canoe and we will be saved."

38 His family laughed at him.

39 "Make one on your own, we are going to live in the mountains.

40 The water won't reach us there."

41 However, they were sadly mistaken for the water did reach them and they were all drowned.

42 Even the great Rocky Mountains were covered in water and the earth could not be seen at all.

43 That surely is the end of the world, it was said, for men and animals and even birds had perished.

44 However, the old man, of whom everyone had made fun, had built a boat and in it he placed the animals and birds in pairs and they all sailed away.

45 This old man is known as "Grandfather" or simply "Old Man".

46 For a long time they all lived on the canoe, out of sight of any land.

47 Those animals who could swim continually searched for land, but always in vain.

48 Many times they dived down into the depths, but it was impossible to touch bottom.

49 The dove also set out to seek land, but she returned exhausted and empty-handed.

50 The next day, though, she set out again and was gone until evening.

51 When she returned, worn out and breathless, she was carrying in her claws a young pine shoot and she reported having seen the tops of many pine trees and of stopping to rest on them.

52 All the animals were encouraged by what she said and again they began diving to reach the earth.

53 All the waterfowl and animals whose home was in the water took part in the search.

54 The muskrat dived in and eventually surfaced, breathless.

55 "Still no earth," he reported.

56 Then the otter went down.

57 She was gone a long time and finally surfaced exhausted and on her back, but she too had nothing to report.

58 Then finally, the long tailed duck dived in and when he surfaced he held in his webbed foot a little mud!

59 "The water is receding! The earth is returning!" everyone cried.

60 "The duck is a great chief!"

61 So it is that the Arctic Duck is a great and powerful creature, a chief. That's the end of the story.

CHAPTER 5
THE RAVEN

BEFORE the grandfather disembarked, he had released the Raven, but it had not returned. He

searched high and low, but there was no sign of it.

2 At last the food supply ran out, for there was no more meat to eat.

3 "How come all the animals we eat have disappeared?" men asked one another.

4 "That wicked raven must have something to do with it! Let's go and look for him!"

5 The Jackdaw was sent for, and she spent the entire day flying back and forth, but when evening came she had nothing to report.

6 "He's nowhere to be seen," she said.

7 The Blue Jay was also summoned and when evening came, he returned and said, "I've seen the raven, perched on top of a high mountain.

8 He is fat and has lots to eat.

9 His beak is red and around his neck is a necklace of animals' eyes.

10 It's obvious he has all our animals."

11 All the men were angry and they decided to chase after the raven.

12 On the mountain top there was an enormous tent, where the old woman raven was living.

13 Inside the tent were all the grazing animals and she and her children were keeping a close watch on them.

14 She was seated on guard at her door when the men arrived.

15 "Who will open up this tent for us?" they asked themselves, for the old woman raven was very powerful.

16 The wolf and the fox tried, but failed when the raven attacked them.

17 They withdrew.

18 Then the jay said, "I'll do it."

19 He perched on the tent top and ripped the tent roof. He undid the ties and knocked down the poles.

20 All the animals were freed and they returned to their homes.

21 "Let's kill the raven," said the man, when the animals had been freed. "He's a useless, wicked bird and an enemy to us."

22 The raven pleaded with them, "Have pity on me," he cried. "Spare me! Let me live and I will help you get food."

23 "If you want to be spared, give us some meat!" the men replied.

24 The domestic, grass-eating animals had very bony structures and it was almost impossible to kill them.

25 Arrows were blunted on their hides for they were very tough.

26 For this reason it was difficult to obtain food.

27 So when the Raven begged for his life, his enemies demanded meat from him.

28 He sat on the mountain top and with his knife he sharpened bones, which he threw at the grazing animals.

29 He was able to pierce their hides with ease and kill them.

30 Those which he missed, however, could not be killed, their hides were so tough.

31 Then the men began to say to themselves, "Where are the corpses of men lying? Why haven't we seen any?"

32 There were no human corpses to be seen.

33 Then the jay said, "Beside the water there are lots of seagulls and I've seen them devouring human flesh and even fighting one another for it."

34 From then on both men and animals multiplied and the earth was repopulated.

35 Not long after the flood, it so happened that there was a shortage of water. The Drinker had drunk all the water and was stretched out on the sand, in the sun, his belly swollen.

36 The grandfather went up to the Drinker followed by all the animals, for they were extremely thirsty and they surrounded the Drinker.

37 She made some vulgar sounds, and then said, "I'm so ill, my bosom is sore and my stomach is swollen."

38 Then the lynx went to her and said, "Grandmother, you are obviously very ill and I shall help you."

39 He began to rub her stomach with his paw, and suddenly he dug his claws into her flesh and punctured her belly so

7

all the water gushed out.

40 The rivers and streams were replenished by the torrents of water and everything was revived and refreshed again.

CHAPTER 6
THE MULTIPLICATION OF LANGUAGE

IN the beginning, all men lived on a mountain top and all spoke a single language. The children went into the forest to play and they said to one another. "Let's play a game where we do as our parents do!"

2 So, in fun, they hunted and a child slaughtered a moose, skinned it and butchered it and its meat was shared in each tent.

3 Then the people became very frightened.

4 There was much evil where none had been before and human hearts were troubled.

5 The spirits fled away and no one remembered the common language any more. Men no longer understood one another and they all went their separate ways.

6 Since then, many different languages have been spoken.

CHAPTER 7
THE CHILD REARED BY THE GRANDMOTHER

FOR a long while, people were dying of hunger, for the caribou had migrated far away.

2 Men left their home lands in search of food, travelling over the sea to the desert, where there are no trees, to where their enemies lived.

3 During one March, a very old woman had difficulty in keeping up with everyone else and walked along behind.

4 Suddenly she heard a baby crying.

5 She searched for the child, very carefully, but could find nothing.

6 She searched some more and then she found him.

7 He was very tiny - about the size of a thumb - and he lay in some musk-oxen droppings.

8 "Pick me up, grandmother," he said to her. She picked him up and brought him home, where she grew to love him and raised him as her own.

9. "Grandmother," said the child, "I have come to earth to do good to mankind." The old woman had adopted the child, as I have said, which is why he called her grandmother.

10 The child grew and each evening he would leave his grandmother's house and be gone until the morning.

11 At first the old woman was very worried about him, but as she got to know him she became used to his habits.

12 No one knew where the child went, but he worked magic among the caribou.

13 He would touch the caribou's muzzle and kill them.

14 He slew many in this way.

15 When he returned home in the morning there would be many caribou tongues tied to his belt.

16 The old lady and her family lived very well indeed.

17 One day the child said to the old woman, "Mother, tell my people this: If you give me caribou tongue tips, I shall make sure that for as long as I am living with you there will never be a shortage of meat.

18 I will ensure there will always be lots of caribou in the area and I shall stay with you for a long time."

19 The old woman told everyone what the child had said and they all agreed to comply with his request.

20 From then on there was a plentiful supply of caribou and the meat was very succulent.

21 For a long time everyone gave the tongue tips to the child from each caribou they killed.

22 However, eventually they forgot the arrangement and they stopped giving them to him.

23 "Well, that's that," said the child, who was now fully grown.

24 "I can no longer live with these people.

25 I have been good to them, but they do not remember it anymore.

26 They have stopped giving me the tongue tips and therefore I must leave."

27 The old woman wept, she pleaded and begged him to stay but in vain.

28 "My people have forgotten me," he kept saying, "I must go away.

29 However, I shall not reject them entirely.

30 If éver there is a famine, and they call on me, I shall return.

31 You others, you may try to follow me, come on!"

32 With these words he disappeared among the muskoxen.

33 The old woman tried hard to follow his trail but it was difficult for her at her age and she never saw him again.

34 Since then, however, if we are ever in need of caribou and there is a famine from the barrens to the ocean, we call for the Powerful Child and he hears us.

35 He sends oxen to us, we kill the oxen and thus we are able to live and not die.

CHAPTER 8
THE CHILD REARED BY HIS GRANDMOTHER ACCORDING TO THE YELLOWKNIVES

AT one time there was a famine from the the barrens to the ocean.

2 In vain we looked for caribou but there were none.

3 It was a hard time.

4 Suddenly the sound of a baby's cry was heard beside the Copper River.

5 There were lots of girls living there and they all went in search of the child, but could not find him.

6 An old woman arrived and after a short while she found the little child.

7 He was only as big as a thunb, but perfectly formed and he was lying in a caribou's hoof print.

8 The old woman picked him up and took pity on him.

9 She raised the child and he called her, "Grandmother".

10 Although he was so small he had strong magical powers, it was said.

11 One day he said to his grandmother, "My people are very unhappy.

12 I feel sorry for them and I must go to them.

13 They are in need of meat and I must feed them."

14 In vain the old woman pleaded with him to stay.

15 She wept, but when she saw he was adamant, she let him go.

16 He left in the night and no one knew where he went.

17 When day broke, the little child returned from far away, back to his people and his grandmother's house.

18 His grandmother was sleeping on the ground and her head was cold, for there was no fire.

19 The child undid his belt and said to her, "Mother, look!"

20 Lots of caribou tongue tips fell from his belt.

21 "My people will be able to live well now," he said, "If they remember me."

22 So for a long time the magic child lived with his people and there was never a lack of caribou.

23 However, in the barrens where there were no trees it was impossible to hunt for there was no water and one could die of thirst.

24 "Be patient!" said the child.

25 He fashioned an arrow with his knife and suddenly thrust it into the ground. Immediately water gushed forth.

26 At last the child grew old and his life was almost spent. He climbed to a mountain top and there he said these words, "I am about to die, but I shall never be very far away from you and I shall not reject you.

27 Any time you call for me I shall come from where ever I may be.

28 When he'd spoken, his people built a magic hut for him, and he sat down inside it.

29 He wove magic spells for a long time, calling on the Far Away Spirit.

30 After a long while, the people said, "Why doesn't he come out of there?

31 Let's go and see what's happening!"

32 They looked inside the hut.

33 There was no one there.

34 No one has ever seen the child since then.

CHAPTER 9
THE PERFORMING WAND

OLTSINTTHEDH was a powerful magician and performed wonders with his wand.

2 One day the Great Enemy stole Oltsintthedh's two sisters.

3 "You are obviously not manly enough," a man said to him, "for your sisters have been stolen from you."

4 Oltsintthedh grew angry and began to beat the man with his wand and, without meaning to, he killed him.

5 Then he jumped up and said, "I must go and rescue my two sisters."

6 He and his younger brother set out immediately to find the girls.

7 They searched separately and, as a guide, they hung a drum hugh in a pine tree so when the wind blew they could both hear it.

8 In the evening they slept together under the tree where the drum was.

9 They were among the Eyunen.

10 In their search they eventually reached a country whose inhabitants ate only white resin.

11 They could not possibly live there, for they could not eat spruce gum.

12 They went far away and one day came to a land where the people ate only thrushes.

13 Oltsintthedh hung nets in the air to catch some thrushes and succeeded in capturing many.

14 But they did not find the two sisters and so they continued onwards.

15 They reached a country where the inhabitants were half man and half hare.

16 It was dark all the time and everyone slept continuously.

17 Oltsintthedh threw some hares' eyes into the fire and made light.

18 But they did not remain there long and once more went on their way.

19 Finally, they came to a large tent.

20 There the Great Enemy lived, for he was the Big Chief of the Enemies.

21 He had captured the two sisters and they were inside the tent, weeping constantly.

22 Oltsintthedh entered the tent, but the Great Enemy was not at home, as he had gone hunting.

23 Oltsintthedh said to his two sisters, "I've come to rescue you, my sister, follow me!

24 But be careful!"

25 Oh, brother, our captor is powerful," the girls replied. "It will be hard to escape."

26 But he reassured them and they followed him.

27 When the Great Enemy returned to find his slaves gone, he was furious and immediately followed their trail.

28 "I have to get them back!" he thought.

29 As he was a magician, he set up ambushes and lay in wait for them, but Oltsintthedh was also powerful and he constantly foiled his plans.

30 The next morning found them at the bottom of a crevice where they had slept all night.

16

31 "Don't be scared, sisters!" said Oltsintthedh. "Trust me! Go back to sleep!"

32 They went back to sleep and with his wand he raised the rock high and saved them.

33 The next night they slept in the barrens, but when they awoke they were on a little island surrounded by water.

34 The two girls began to cry.

35 "It is nothing to worry about, go back to sleep!" said Oltsintthedh.

36 He made a causeway and they crossed the lake in safety.

37 On the third night they were stuck in quicksand.

38 They couldn't move! What could they do? How would they escape the Great Enemy's wickedness?

39 "Go to sleep, sisters," said Oltsintthedh, and suddenly by magic he made a path over the quicksand and they crossed the marsh on it.

40 At last the Great Enemy realized he could not beat Oltsintthedh and he left them alone and released the sisters.

41 Oltsintthedh said to his younger brother, "Come with me! We must kill all those evil people and I shall make them good again."

42 So they went to the summit of a high mountain.

43 Oltsintthedh thundered and made lightning flashes.

44 He picked up two flat stones and threw them like a thunderbolt among the Eyunen and everyone died instantly.

45 Then they came down from the mountain.

46 When they reached the bottom, they encountered the old woman who had raised them.

47 She was mad and was singing and dancing.

48 She sung these words, "I have many songs! I know many songs!"

49 She danced like a fool and suddenly turned herself into a fox.

50 Oltsintthedh knocked her on the head with his wand and she fell over on the ground.

51 Oltsintthedh lived a long time after that, dying eventually of old age, it is said.

CHAPTER 10
SAME LEGEND FROM ATHABASCA

OLTSINTTHEDH'S people were all slain by a band of Dogribs, and he alone survived by fleeing to the top of a very high mountain.

2 The Dogribs surrounded him and shot him full of arrows, but he did not die.

3 "He must be dead," they thought and they went away, but when they came back later, he was sitting up, alive.

4 He said to them, "You failed to kill me, so now leave me alone and go away!"

5 They went away again.

6 Oltsintthedh returned to his tent where only his sister was still living.

7 So they lived there together. Oltsintthedh made many spears and his sister was afraid.

8. However, he did not stab her, but he said, "Sister, I am going to kill you for I cannot work.

9 I think continually of the Dogribs who killed so many of our people."

10 Then his sister set out to find the Dogrib people, travelling over lake and mountain.

11 Early in the morning she sang like a little bird these words: "On the lake of the little fish, happy men get up in the morning!"

12 Then an old man said, "The little bird has spoken truly, I think. It sings like a human!"

13 Oltsintthedh said to his sister, "Tomorrow we shall kill everyone except the old man and his children," and for that reason the Dogrib tribe still survive today for they are the old man's descendants.

14 Oltsintthedh vowed to kill all the Dogribs, but they were stronger than he and they tried to kill him.

15 They chopped off his head with an axe, but his head still lived.

16 Then they threw the head in the fire, but it did not burn.

17 Finally they crushed it with a huge stone and broke it in pieces.

18 But each of the pieces became a new person and that is why everyone has lots of cousins.

19 The people said, "Oltsintthedh's head keeps multiplying.

20 This man is evil."

21 That is the end of the story.

CHAPTER 11
THE SNAKE WOMAN

THERE was once a husband and wife who lived together.

2 One day they were out hunting together and the woman said she would go to make a fire.

3 However she did not make the fire - instead she went to a hollow tree whose interior was full of snakes and she lived with them.

4 The husband was very unhappy and went to seek his wife.

5 He came to where his wife was living and saw the bush and then he saw a huge tree with lots of fruit on it and plenty of grass growing at its base.

6 The husband called, "I'm your husband! I have come for you!"

7 As soon as he spoke large snakes came slithering out and the husband killed them all.

8 He made soup for his wife from their blood.

9 His wife said to him, "Wait here, husband, I'm going to get wood for a fire, then I will eat."

10 The husband replied, "No, there's plenty of wood, eat first, then fetch some wood."

11 However, in the end she went to fetch wood and she went straight to the big tree where she said, angrily, "I love my snake husbands and now they are all dead!"

12 She decided to kill her husband but when she went back to him he chopped off her head with his axe.

13 He ran to the river bank where there was an old woman named Grasshopper.

14 "Help me!" he said to her, "Carry me to the far side!"

15 Grasshopper stretched her legs and carried him across.

16 Then the woman's head rolled up and said to Grasshopper, "Carry me across to the other side, too!" and the grasshopper did so.

17 The husband lay down with his son.

18 "My wicked wife will not come here," he thought.

19 But in the middle of the night he woke and saw his wife's head lying at his side, watching him.

20 The husband was absolutely terrified and he grabbed his axe and split open the skull, crushing it to a pulp.

21 But from out of the head came other heads and also mosquitoes and they chased the husband out of the tent.

22 That is the story of The Snake Woman, but some people tell it this way: Grasshopper carried the woman's head across the river but half way over her legs gave way in the strong current and the head rolled into the water and was never seen again.

CHAPTER 12
THE SUN WHICH WAS SNARED

A young man and his sister lived together a long time ago.

2 Every day the sister set her snares among the tall trees, hoping to trap pheasant, partridge, hare or lynx.

3 Both of them noticed that the days appeared to be growing shorter.

4 Each day the sun shone less and less and soon it hid itself completely in the west where the earth has its mouth.

5 Then everything on the earth began to freeze and it became very hard to survive.

6 "What are we going to do?" they thought, "We don't want to freeze."

7 One day, the sister went to check her snares as usual among the pines and lakes, hoping for a lynx.

8 In one of her traps she had caught the sun and it was strangling itself.

9 When she saw the sun's bright red face she ran to her brother shouting, "Brother, come quickly! I've trapped the sun in my snare and it is strangling itself!"

10 The two of them dashed off, hoping to save the sun.

11 However, when they reached the trap, the sun said to them, "I'm still alive, please let me go.

12 I promise to make long days and to bring warmth to the earth.

13 I don't want to be strangled in this snare."

14 They released the sun and let it go.

15 For that reason, ever since that day the sun has hung in the sky.

CHAPTER 13
THE WOMAN OF METALS

ONE day a woman was kidnapped by an Eskimo and taken to the far side of the Great Water.

2 There she escaped from her captor, but she wandered weeping by the sea, unable to return to her own land and without hope.

3 Suddenly she saw an Arctic wolf, and she followed in its tracks.

4 It led her over the sea and on to high land and she saw many interesting things around her.

5 She killed some caribou and when she had cooked a caribou stomach she gave it to her child, whom she then abandoned.

6 She went on her way and suddenly she saw firelight and, thinking it must be a Dene camp, she went towards it.

7 However, it turned out to be the droppings of a red beaver.

8 She continued on, making a path out of large stones wherever she went.

9 Eventually, she reached her own people.

10 "I know where there is metal," she told them.

11 So a group of her people set out with her to find the metal but they treated her badly.

12 She sat on the metal.

13 She stayed there a long time and eventually she was buried in the earth up to her chest.

14 She gave some metal to her family, who loved her.

15 She said to them, "I shall only give metal to someone who brings me meat."

16 So she received meat from her family and gave metal in return.

17 However, she remained there so long that she sank deeper and deeper into the ground.

18 Her people tried to coax her out, but she would not come.

19 She was buried up to her shoulders and then only her head was showing and finally she was completely buried.

20 Everywhere she had been, the large stones were standing in rows and these remain to this day, it is said, identifying her route for ever.

21 It is said that she made metal with her lungs and her heart and if she was given meat she would give metal in return.

22 This story belongs to the Yellowknife tribe and it is why they are called the Copper Indians.

CHAPTER 14
THE ARCTIC GIANT

A Dene woman, whose name was Jumping Marten, was seized by a band of Savanais and taken away to the east, to the coast.

2 One of them, whose name was He Whose Head Sweeps the Sky, used to wander by the Arctic Ocean.

3 One day he met another giant, whose name was Bettsinuli and they began to fight.

4 Bettsinuli was the stronger of the two and would have won, but Head Sweeps the Sky was saved when his friend, a man, cut into Bettsinuli's leg with his axe, a giant beaver's tooth.

5 Bettsinuli fell over backwards into the sea so that his feet lay in the west and his head lay in our own country, at the tip of Frozen Water Lake.

6 The giant's body became a huge mountain, stretched out as it was and in time it was used as a trail down which the caribou migrated in winter.

7 It is said that the woman who found the metal also came by that route to our land.

CHAPTER 15
JUMPING MARTEN

A Dene woman, whose name was Jumping Marten, was seized by a band of Savanais and taken away to the east, to the coast.

2 The enemies possessed many fine articles, such as weapons, utensils and many rare objects.

3 When she saw all these things she thought the Savanais made them and she was full of admiration.

4 The Dene woman was made a slave and lived and worked with the enemies.

5 When she had to travel with them, she realized that all the fine objects were not made by them after all, but were brought in in exchange for meat and furs.

6 After living with the Savanais for a long time, the Dene woman learnt to speak and understand their language.

7 She discovered that a strange people called, "Stone House People" who were not of the Dene nation, lived near the sea and traded fine articles with the Savanais, who gave beaver pelts in return.

8 She learned many other things by overhearing conversations and one day she escaped and tried to find these people, who were the English settlers.

9 For many days she wandered in the bush, but eventually she saw a stone house and realized it was an English camp, so she went in.

10 The woman could speak Cree and with the aid of an interpreter she told the English her story.

11 "When I was a young girl," she began, "the enemies kidnapped me and took me far away from my home.

12 If you can help me, I would be so happy.

13 My people are good, they do not kill or steal and if you would get to know them they would also trade with you, for there are many, many beavers in their land."

14 The English traders were delighted with what she said and agreed to help her.

15 They treated her very well, giving her a sled and a team of dogs, a cooking pot, clothing, a knife, an axe, a flint, a fire beater, all for nothing.

16 They taught her how to use these things and saw her safely on her journey to her home.

17 They also gave her a note which enabled her to pass safely through the land of the Savanais.

18 At long last, Jumping Marten reached the Peace River.

19 She showed her parents all the fine things the English had given her and she told of her adventures.

20 As a result, a party of the Dene set

out to reach the sea, but it was a very long way.

21 They met with some French men at a place called Ile de la Croix, at Lake Athabaska, and there they spent the winter.

22 The Dene people are still there to this day, living near the great lake.

23 A few of the Dene crossed the barrens to Hudson's Bay, where they settled.

24 There are many Inuit in that area and the English called them "Eaters of Caribou."

CHAPTER 16
ARRIVAL OF THE FRENCH AT GREAT SLAVE LAKE

I, who am telling this story, saw the French arrive here, with my own eyes.

2 This is how it happened.

3 One day a boat arrived containing a party of French men with their two leaders.

4 I was a young lad, living with my parents.

5 I am part French, you know, but my mother was a Dene and my grandmother a Cree, so I have a mixture of three bloods flowing in my veins.

6 Anyway, when the French arrived, they went to my Uncle Jack's house.

7 "Do any of you speak French?" they asked.

8 "Of course, we are of French descent," we replied.

9 Then the leader said to Uncle Jack, "You can act as our interpreter, seeing as you are Metis."

10 There was an Englishman in the group called James who understood both French and Chipewyan, I believe.

11 "Now," said the leader, whose name was Peter Pond, "Call all the Dene people together!"

12 My uncle called everyone together and people arrived in great numbers by canoe.

13 Living in that area were Slaveys, Dogribs, and Yellowknife Indians and people came from the Mackenzie too.

14 At that time there was a lot of fighting with the Dogribs, but on that day peace was made for ever.

15 "Now, who is your leader?" Peter Pond asked the Dogribs.

16 "This man, Dog's Son, he is our leader," they replied.

17 "Right, Dog's Son, you alone will be the chief and you will speak to the Dene people for us.

18 We are French and we are good people. We don't kill the Dene for we like them and we wish to trade meat and furs in exchange for clothes and other articles which we shall give you," said Peter Pond.

19 "You tell your people that in exchange for lots of furs we shall give you many things which will make life much easier and more pleasant for you.

20 See this linen, this cooking pot, this axe and this knife - we shall give you similar things if you will give us furs in return."

21 "What do you use to cook with, Dog's Son?" asked Peter Pond.

22 Dog's Son showed him a pot made of woven roots.

23 "Oh, that's no good! This one of mine is far better, it's a real pot!" said the French man.

24 Dog's Son took the pot and examined it very carefully, running his hands all over it.

25 It was made of metal and was very shiny.

26 "It is very pretty," he said, "and so strong! So heavy!"

27 "That's because you put water in it and suspend it over the fire," explained Peter Pond.

28 The French man cooked meat in the pot and gave it to the Dene.

29 When everyone had eaten enough, they had a dance.

30 "But this is nothing," said the French leader.

31 "If you can give us lots of furs, and lots of meat, the French will treat you well and we'll give you lots of cooking pots and many other things besides to make life better for you."

32 Then he gave Dog's Son many fine things - a red tailcoat, a tall hat with feathers in it, a big pot, a neckerchief, a drinking mug, an axe, a knife, some needles and thread and some tobacco, all for nothing.

33 "Ha! Obviously you aren't familiar with this stuff!" said the White Leader. "It's called Tobacco."

34 He gave a pipe to each one and showed them how to smoke it.

35 However, as soon as they had taken their first puffs they exclaimed, "That's terrible stuff!" and they all began to cough and gag and make awful faces and some even threw up.

36 However, it was a happy evening and the dancing went on all night.

37 As I mentioned, I was only a boy at the time, no more than fifteen years old.

38 My uncle went off with the French in their boat to act as interpreter for them.

39 All that I've told you took place at the end of Great Slave Lake on the Big Island, and I saw it all.

CHAPTER 17
THE WAY TO MAKE MAGIC

FORMERLY, there were Dene Magicians.

2 One day, one of them said, "I am going to cure someone who is ill.

3 He hasn't eaten or drunk for three days and he wants to be made well."

4 First of all he needed to have a magic hut built.

5 Several men built the tent for him while he remained at his home, doing nothing.

6 However, he knew exactly what was happening - by power of thought he knew when the poles had been cut and from which trees as well.

7 The hut was erected a short distance from the village and the guy ropes were attached.

8 No one told the magician but he said to himself, "Everything is ready now."

9 He got up and walked towards the site.

10 He shook the magic tent, walked three times around it and went inside and lay down to fast.

11 Not long afterwards, the spirit of the sick man called the magician, "Help me!" it cried.

12 Then the sick man, who was in fact a sinner, went quickly to the hut, accompanied by another sinner.

13 He sat down beside the magician and confessed his sins.

14 The magician often asked him questions and reprimanded him and eventually he extracted from the man all his hidden sins.

15 "You must confess everything," insisted the magician.

16 At last the sick man had confessed all his sins.

17 The magician called on the Distant Spirit to descend, then he began to sing and to blow on the man, and commanded the evil to come out of him and go far away.

18 When the Distant Spirit came down, the magician approached the man and passed his hands over him so he fell asleep. The Distant Spirit then reentered the man's body and his sins were flushed out and banished far away and his illness left him.

19 The Distant Spirit returned the man's soul which had almost been lost and the man was once again restored to life on this earth.

20 When all this had taken place, the man awoke with a loud cry and he was completely cured.

21 This is how our forefathers used to heal the sick.

22 Occasionally, they had to cut the skin and suck out blood, worms, pebbles, or fish bones, depending on what was causing the sickness.

23 At other times, they made magic so that a snake would come crawling out of the body.

24 Nowadays, though, the magicians no longer know how to do these things, for priests have come by water to live among us and there is no more need for our magic.

BOOK OF TLINCHODENE (DOGRIB)

CHAPTER 1 THE OLD MAN

IN the beginning of time there was an old man named Tchapewi.

2 He lived with his two sons.

3 In the autumn there was an abundance of fruit.

4 The old man said to his sons, "There is lots of fruit available and we are very happy.

5 We can hunt where we wish and go where we please.

6 However, you must heed carefully what I have to say:

7 You must not eat unripe fruit.

8 If you do, you will rot your teeth and your children's teeth as well.

9 You must eat only ripe fruit.

10 Also, when night falls, you must not venture outside."

11 "We understand", replied the two young men.

12 For a long time the two brothers obeyed their father's instructions.

13 But one day the younger one decided he would like to taste some of the forbidden fruit.

14 He gathered some unripe fruit in a bowl and ate it.

15 Tchapewi was extremely angry with them.

16 "How is it that you have disobeyed my command?", he asked.

17 He drove them out of his house and forced them to live on a tiny island under terrible conditions.

18 This is the reason that today we say we have rotten teeth because our ancestors ate unripe fruit.

CHAPTER 2 HISTORY OF THE DOGRIBS

A young woman of the Yellowknife tribe lived with her brothers, for she had no husband.

2 One day a handsome young stranger came to the house.

3 For several days he stayed with the brothers.

4 The brothers said to their sister, "This handsome man has come for you so you must marry him."

5 So the couple were wed.

6 That night the couple went to bed and slept together.

7 During the night the woman awoke.

8 Her husband was no longer at her side.

9 "Where has my husband gone," she wondered?

10 Suddenly in the tent she could hear the sound of a dog gnawing on a bone.

11 But the fire was out so she could see nothing.

12 "Whose dog is that? We have no dog," she said to herself.

13 Quickly she jumped up and lit a fire.

14 Then she looked around the tent.

15 There was no dog to be seen.

16 She went back to bed and fell asleep.

17 But again she was awakened by the noise of a dog gnawing a bone.

18 "How come there is a dog in our tent?" she said to herself again.

19 "We don't own a dog."

20 One of her brothers grabbed his hatchet and threw it in the direction of the noise.

21 There was a loud cry and then silence.

22 Quickly they lit a fire again and searched the tent once more.

23 There was a huge black dog, lying dead.

24 From that moment on, the stranger was never seen again.

25 "So, this creature was by day a man and our sister's husband, but at night he became a dog and he deceived all of us," said the brothers.

26 Then they abandoned their young sister, because she had slept with this creature who was both man and dog.

27 They cast her out, without pity.

28 The woman left the camp in great sorrow, for she was pregnant.

29 Eventually she gave birth to six puppies.

30 She was ashamed of them and yet she loved them at the same time, and she concealed them in a sack.

31 One day she went as usual to inspect her snare.

32 On returning home, she noticed children's footprints on the hearth.

33 "What's this?" she said to herself, "There are only puppies in the sack, not children."

34 The next day she again went to check her snare.

35 On returning, again there were children's footprints on the hearth.

36 "It's definitely my children who are making these footprints," she said to herself.

37 In daylight my children are human, but when they go back in the darkness of the sack they become puppies again.

38 I know what I am going to do!"

39 She tied a rope to the bag and started off down the path.

40 As she left, she called, "Children, Mummy is going to look for some white hare for you!"

41 She kept hold of the rope, but she did not go anywhere.

42 Instead she hid behind a bush close to the tent and waited.

43 Shortly, she could hear the puppies talking.

44 "Mother's gone! Let's go out and play!" they said.

45 Then a puppy came out of the sack.

46 He took a deep breath, and suddenly became a little boy.

47 He was followed by another and another, till at last there were three boys and three girls.

48 They all danced and played in the tent.

49 The woman was delighted.

50 She decided they would never again go back in the sack, because they were really human.

51 She pulled on the rope so the drawstring would close the sack.

52 But before she succeeded three of the children had re-entered the bag and once again had turned into puppies.

53 However, three of them were still outside the sack, two boys and a girl, and they remained as humans.

54 The woman rushed to embrace her human babies.

55 She ignored the three puppies in the sack.

56 She made clothing for the three children from hareskin and raised them to adulthood.

57 The two brothers seemed to have magical powers.

58 They were very strong and they

always ensured there was a plentiful supply of meat.

59 "We're going to see our uncles," they said to their mother one day.

60 The uncles no longer rejected them when they saw what fine, strong young men they had become.

61 These two married their sister and produced many children.

62 We are descended from them and that is why we call ourselves the Dogrib people.

CHAPTER 3
TPAKFWELE'S FLOOD

ONCE an old man had chased away his two sons because he was so angry at them.

2 Then he went away himself over the sea to a channel in the north.

3 There he lived all alone, still angry that his sons had disobeyed him.

4 One day the waters of the sea grew very rough.

5 With a great roar they flooded the earth and a heavy rain began to fall.

6 The old man had been sleeping and he awoke to see enormous waves crashing all around.

7 He positioned himself over the channel, with one foot on one side and the other foot on the other side.

8 With his hands he fished the animals out of the water and put them back on dry land again.

9 However, the water was rising so fast that soon he had to make a raft and put the animals on that instead.

10 Then he cast off with his animals.

11 For a long time they sailed in the heavy rain and high seas.

12 Soon even the tallest mountains were covered by water.

13 The earth could no longer be seen.

14 Then the old man began to send out those animals which could swim to see if they could locate land.

15 He sent the otter, the beaver, and the duck but they did not find land.

16 Finally, he sent the muskrat and this creature eventually returned.

17 It was exhausted but had some earth in his paw.

18 The old man threw the earth on the raging sea and instantly the waters were calmed.

19 Then the old man blew on the mud and it grew large enough to place a small bird on it.

20 He blew on it again and again it grew bigger.

21 So he placed a raven on it.

22 A third time he blew, and this time it was large enough to put a fox on it.

23 Finally there was enough land to place all the animals on it.

24 Then he, too, clambered off the raft on to dry land.

CHAPTER 4
KLINTCHONGE'S FLOOD

A handsome youth was walking by the sea when a whale surfaced close by.

2 "Oh whale! Swallow me up!", said the youth.

3 He jumped into the water and the whale swallowed him.

4 For three days it kept him in its stomach.

5 The young man's sister mourned for her brother.

6 She wandered along the beach, weeping.

7 Suddenly the whale appeared again and from its stomach she could hear her brother's voice:

8 "Sister! Sister! I am so unhappy inside this whale!

9 The stomach is burning me!

10 I beg you, sister, throw one of your moccasins to the whale and pull me out by the laces."

11 The girl did as he asked.

12 By hanging on the thongs, she was able to pull her brother out of the whale's belly as he held on to the moccasin.

13 He struggled to the shore, coughing up water and half drowned.

14 The whale was angry at losing him.

15 He began beating the water with his tail and made enormous waves.

16 The waves were so huge that they flooded the earth.

17 The youth and his sister were the only ones who were not killed in that flood.

CHAPTER 5
THE MAN WHO WALKED AROUND THE SKY

A long, long time ago, a great many men and women were setting out to go to war.

2 An old woman wept for her son:

3 "Don't go!" she pleaded, and she took away her son's arrows.

4 "Mother, I must go with the soldiers," begged the son.

5 Alone he set out and followed the warriors.

6 At last he came to a huge tent.

7 Then he arrived at a mountain.

8 Looking around he spied a tiny house.

9 He went towards it.

10 When he reached it, he found it was really quite a large house.

11 Inside there was a cauldron in which was cooking hare and fish stew.

12 An old man and woman lived in the house.

13 There were many pots and pans lying around.

14 The couple had a beautiful daughter whom the youth greatly desired.

15 So after they had eaten the fish stew and the girl had gone to bed, the old lady told the youth to go and sleep with her daughter.

16 He went and lay down beside the girl and began to fondle her breasts.

17 Suddenly an ermine appeared at his side.

18 He picked it up and moved it away.

19 Then he slept with the girl and so became her husband.

20 The next morning the girl said to her parents:

21 "He has taken away all my magic!"

22 "That doesn't matter," replied her mother.

23 "I'm going to check my snares," said the girl.

24 The youth went with her and by magic he caught many hares.

25 They went to a small lake and the youth threw a stone in the water, which struck and killed a large pike.

26 He needed arrows, so he threw a stone into a tree and knocked down some of its branches.

27 As they fell they became arrows and he picked them all up.

28 He also needed feathers.

29 Looking up, he spotted an eagle's nest high in a tall pine tree.

30 The Dene clambered up the tree and into the nest.

31 However, there was only the eagle's son in the nest.

32 He said: "Man, my mother and father are not here.

33 If they see you they will kill you so hide under my wings."

34 "How will I recognize your father?" asked the man.

35 "The male eagle brings snow and the female makes the rain," replied the young eagle.

36 He covered the man with his wings and crouched in the nest to hide him.

37 By and by, the female eagle flew up to the nest carrying some food.

38 She gave it to her son.

39 She was a fine bird and the man killed her instantly.

40 Shortly afterwards the father arrived at the nest.

41 "I smell human flesh," he said.

42 In his beak he was carrying a baby.

43 The Dene killed the father eagle but spared the young eagle.

44 As he released him he said:

45 "You may fly away, I shall not kill

you.

46 But from now on, you must only eat fish."

47 The young eagle flew away and the man proceeded to pluck the abundant feathers from the parent birds.

48 Down below him on the forest trail the man could hear the crashing of a gigantic caribou.

49 How could he kill it? he wondered.

50 The man hid himself under a tree and saw a mouse.

51 He said to him:

52 "Dig me a tunnel under the ground."

53 The mouse did as he was asked, burrowing beneath the earth until he was directly under the caribou's heart.

54 The Dene followed the mouse along the passage and when he reached the end he pierced the enormous beast through its heart and killed it.

55 The Dene then went off in search of arrow heads.

56 Soon he came across a huge toad seated on a pile of flat stones, making magic.

57 The Dene picked up a handful of clay, rolled it into a ball.

58 He threw it at the toad and killed it.

59 Then he took all the flat stones.

60 Now the Dene had a wife, arrows, feathers and arrow heads.

61 All he lacked was resin and he set out to find some.

62 He heard a dog barking and went towards it.

63 A wolverine crossed the pathway ahead of him.

64 "I saw you first, so you are mine!" the Dene shouted.

65 He chased the wolverine.

66 He threw a blanket over him.

67 He rolled him on the ground.

68 He stabbed him and scalped him.

69 He crossed a stream and entered the land of the wolverines.

70 There were many of them living in that area.

71 The Dene could hear the young wolverines asking their parents for meat.

72 The Dene hid himself and lay still.

73 When a group of wolverines came upon him they thought he was dead.

74 Suddenly he leaped up and began to beat them.

75 He hit one of them on the nose very hard.

76 The wolverine sneezed, then blew his nose.

77 Resin poured from his nose and the Dene collected all the resin he wanted.

78 The Dene then returned to his wife, who was living with her mother.

79 "Change yourself into a polar bear," he commanded his wife.

80 The old lady protested.

81 She was afraid that the Dene would kill her daughter.

82 The daughter obeyed the order, however, and became a bear.

83 The old woman said to the Dene:

84 "Son-in-law, my daughter will surely be killed if she goes outside and is seen.

85 There are many around who carry weapons."

86 The Dene stood up and the bear ran towards him.

87 He choked it and then killed it with his arrows.

88 The father of the girl who had turned into a bear swore to avenge his daughter's murder.

89 "I shall kill the Dene!" he said to himself.

90 But the Dene ran towards a lake and, diving into the water, was turned into a beaver.

91 Then the old man cast a spell and became a monster.

92 He became a large animal similar to a bull, but with wings on its back.

93 He swooped out of the sky and onto the lake.

94 Immediately he drank all the water so his belly swelled up.

95 Then he began to spit it up on the bank.

96 The Dene said to a plover, "Fly to my father-in-law and pierce his belly

with your beak."

97 The plover did so, and all the water gushed out of the animal's stomach with a crash.

98 It engulfed the monster and drowned it.

99 Then all mankind decided to kill the Dene.

100 Dene turned himself into a beaver.

101 He built a dam over the rapids and then transformed himself into a fish.

102 He set off, swimming upstream in the Mackenzie River.

103 "I want to be a mountain animal," he thought.

104 So he became a porcupine.

105 He jumped onto a beaver's back and they swam to the Sans-Sault Rapids.

106 The beaver set him down on the far river bank and there he remained.

107 He built a beaver dam and lived on a island called "Wet Beaver Island".

108 It is said that it is the beaver's tail which is wet.

CHAPTER 6
THE KOLLOUCH

THERE was once a woman and her husband who lived beside a lake in the Bighorn Mountains.

2 There they hunted for beaver.

3 One day they were out hunting.

4 But the wife wandered away from her husband.

5 By nightime she was quite lost on an unknown trail.

6 Through the darkness, however, she spied the light of a large fire.

7 It was the fire of the Kollouch folk.

8 She made her way towards it.

9 It was raining and her clothing was soaked.

10 She wasted no time in reaching the fire.

11 There was only one person by the fire, a small Kollouch.

12 "I mustn't stay," thought the woman.

13 But she knew it was too dark to leave.

14 Instead, she slept with the Kollouch and became his wife.

15 With him she travelled far and wide, over the mountains and across the seas.

16 Not long afterwards, the woman's real husband arrived at the fireplace.

17 He was looking for his wife.

18 She was no longer there.

19 All that summer and autumn he searched for her but could not find her.

20 The woman had gone to the Village of the Little Kollouch with her new husband.

21 In the spring a party went out from the village.

22 The woman went with them to check the fishtraps.

23 The Dene woman discovered her husband's head stuck on the kind of scaffold used to dry meat.

24 When she recognized him, she wept bitterly.

25 Her new husband grew extremely angry when he found her crying over her husband's head.

26 He decided to kill her.

27 She told him she had a headache, however, and he left her alone.

28 She took her husband's head and began playing around with it.

29 She fooled the little Kollouch into thinking she did not care for her old husband.

30 Unknown to the group she was with, the woman asked one of the children to sharpen her knife.

31 After dark she crept down to the river and cut slits in the bottom of all the canoes except one.

32 She then returned to the tent and made love to her husband as if she loved him.

33 Then she told him to go to sleep on his back.

34 He did as she asked.

36 The woman then slit her new husband's throat and chopped off his head with her knife.

37 Then she left the tent.

38 She took her little dog with her.

39 "Cast a spell and make a thick mist," she said to the dog.

40 Then she ran down to the river.

41 She leapt in the good canoe and paddled away.

42 Shortly afterwards, the chief's mother got up.

43 She saw her son's head had been cut off.

44 She became hysterical.

45 "My son's wife has cut off his head-find her! Capture her!" she screamed.

46 Then the Little Kollouch quickly jumped in their canoes.

47 They began paddling in search of the Dene woman.

48 Suddenly all the canoes filled with water.

49 They sank and all the occupants were drowned.

50 Only the women and children remained alive, back at the camp.

51 Before daybreak, the Dene woman returned to the village.

52 While the women and children were sleeping she tied them up.

53 Then she took plenty of meat and went by canoe, back to her own country.

54 This was the story of a Dene woman, but we do not know her name.

CHAPTER 7
THE MOUNTAIN WHICH MELTED

THE Old Man remade the earth.

2 All the men headed for the high ground.

3 There they constructed a tall round tower.

4 "If there is ever another flood in the future, we shall be safe living in this building," they said.

5 The tower was built on a mountain, close to the bitumen mines.

6 Soon the structure reached a great height.

7 The men building it began to make fun of one another's language.

8 "You speak a strange language.

9 Your words are different from ours," they said to each other.

10 Then the ground began to tremble.

11 The men were very frightened.

12 Suddenly the bitumen mines caught fire and exploded.

13 There was a tremendous landslide.

14 Slowly the mountain began to melt and the fire spread.

15 Eventually the mountain was no longer there.

16 In its place was a vast desolate plain stretched as far as the eye could see.

17 The men had run away in all directions when the disaster struck.

18 Now they were scattered all over the earth.

19 From that time on, men spoke different languages and no longer understood one another.

CHAPTER 8
THE WATER DWELLERS

A long time ago, on the shores of Great Bear lake, there lived a race of people known as the Water Dwellers, or Deh nati.

2 They lived by the lake for many years.

3 They were a timid people.

4 Then the Dene arrived at the shores of the Lake.

5 They made a decision to kill the Water Dwellers and take over their land.

6 From Little Fish Mountain close to the lake, the coutryside could be seen for miles.

7 The Water Dwellers were not afraid.

8 They thought they were alone in the area.

9 They lay down peacefully to sleep.

10 Meanwhile, the Dene lit a big bonfire on top of the mountain.

11 When the Deh nati saw this from their campsite they were astonished.

12 But they thought it was a huge star in the sky, and they went back to bed.

13 During the night, the Dene invaded the village.

14 They slew all its inhabitants.

15 From this incident we have a song which goes: "What bright star is coming down from the mountain?"

16 The mountain is now known as "The Mountain Where There Is A Path."

CHAPTER 9
STORY OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE EUROPEANS AT GREAT BEAR LAKE

IN the Spring of 1799, a senior officer of the Northwest Company arrived at Great Bear Lake.

2 His name was Mackenzie, but his native and French employees always referred to him as "Long Neck."

3 A house was built for him in which to live.

4 All his French workers despised him.

5 He was a very vain man and also very mean.

6 Although the French worked long hours, he gave them barely enough food to eat.

7 During the winter they worked about twelve hours a day.

8 All he gave them to eat was six small fish.

9 Then, as now, Great Bear Lake had a plentiful supply of these small fish - herring - the largest of which are no bigger than my hand.

10 At that time, the white fur traders did not dress like the Chipeyan people, with whom they conducted their business.

11 They wore instead a red tail coat, with many large buttons, boots that came up to their knees, and a three cornered hat and a sword which always hung at their side.

12 They looked quite ridiculous!

13 Long Neck's employees were always hungry.

14 He himself would eat juicy red meat, caribou tongues and cake.

15 Besides that he drank large quantities of fire water.

16 As a result, he was much disliked.

17 One day, we were all working in the woods as usual.

18 We were felling pine trees and cutting joists to build a new house.

19 Then Mackenzie arrived in our midst.

20 We were taking a break, sitting on a fallen tree and smoking.

21 I was with the French and I had my gun with me.

22 I had been hunting all day but had only shot one grouse.

23 It was hanging from my belt.

24 I was about seventeen at the time, I believe.

25 Even though I am old now, I remember the incident clearly.

26 One of the Frenchmen, Desmarets, had been making a door.

27 This was also lying against the tree.

28 Long Neck strode up to us:

29 "Hey! Come on! Get going, you bunch of idlers!" he said to us, in French, when he saw we were all resting.

30 "Idlers?" retorted Desmarets, "We aren't idlers, we're just resting.

31 We were eating some of those tiny herrings you give us to eat.

32 We aren't going to get strong on them, but we're certainly not lazy, Sir," he continued.

33 "Shut up and get back to work!" said Mackenzie angrily.

34 "If you don't hold your tongue, I'll ..."

35 He stopped and put his hand on his sword.

36 "So! You English dog! You threaten me with your sword, eh?" exclaimed Desmarets.

37 "You think that because we work for you we are your slaves.

38 Four times a day you eat like a pig.

39 We have to eat your herring.

40 You had better put away your sword or I'll get my axe."

41 Mackenzie drew his sword from beneath his fur coat.

42 He slashed the Frenchman on the leg.

43 Blood spurted out and Desmarets fell to the ground.

44 "You scoundrel, you've killed me!" he groaned.

45 His wound was as big as a man's hand.

46 When I saw that, I was furious.

47 My grandfather and father were French and I love the French people.

48 Mackenzie did not strike again.

49 If he had I would have shot him on the spot.

50 However he said nothing more.

51 He merely wiped his sword on his boot.

52 He replaced it beneath his furs.

53 Then he strode back to his house and locked the door.

54 Meanwhile, Desmaret's colleagues fetched a blanket.

55 They carried the wounded man back to his hut.

56 All of them were swearing revenge against the leaders.

57 "That's just fine," they said.

58 "They should not treat us like dogs, drawing their swords and attacking us as if we were slaves!

59 We shall just take off and the Company can do its own work.

60 If it wants workers, it can look elsewhere!

61 We're going into the bush to live with the Indians.

62 It won't be hard for us."

63 Then Mr. Leblanc arrived.

64 He was a Frenchman and a less senior officer of the Company.

65 The French workers liked him.

66 He was not proud and would chat with them.

67 His boss, Long Neck, would not dream of doing this.

68 Mr. Leblanc was very sympathetic.

69 Eventually he pacified the labourers.

70 He agreed that Mackenzie had acted in a very cowardly manner.

71 He attended to Desmaret's wound and put a proper dressing on it.

72 Then he went to the supply hut and brought them red meat, flour, sugar, tea and tobacco.

73 "Here my friends, take these supplies and enjoy yourselves.

74 They are given to you by Long Neck.

75 In return for them you must never refer to this incident again."

76 "We understand, we agree," replied the men.

77 "If he treats us properly we'll regain our strength.

78 Then we will be able to work much harder.

79 But he must never again draw his sword on us.

80 From now on he must treat us like human beings.

81 You tell him that from us."

82 So things improved.

BOOK OF GAHCHODENE
(SLAVEY)

CHAPTER I
CREATION

WHEN heaven's servants had made the earth, they took something resembling the hide of a large moose which was soft to the touch, and they spread it over the earth's surface.

2 Then they lifted it up again and the earth had become more beautiful.

3 Six times they repeated this process and that was how the world was made so beautiful.

4 This was the story we knew before the French arrived here by water.

5 My mother was very young then but she often spoke of their arrival for she was there when they came. She used to tell me that heaven created the earth, but this was before we heard of the Creator of whom the French spoke.

CHAPTER 2
THE WOMAN WITH EGGS

THE woman's brother-in-law covered her head and took away her clothes.

2 He left her naked in a tiny house, but he gave her a little strength.

3 However, he probably lit a fire for her, for she could not do it herself.

4 She only had enough strength to make snares for hares.

5 She made a snare and caught a hare and she used his tendons to make more snares, which she strung from trees.

6 She trapped many hares and she made herself clothing from the hareskins.

7 In the spring her husband returned in his canoe.

8 His wife, who was called Woman of Fish Eggs, was seated in a tree which leaned out over the water, and she was singing.

9 "Why do you come to see the Woman with Eggs?" she sang.

10 Her husband trembled: "Must I answer you?" he asked.

11 "You don't have to reply to me," she said, "I want to be the mother of these hares."

12 Since then there have always been lots of hares even in winter. The Woman with Eggs made hares, it is said.

CHAPTER 3
THE WISE ONE'S SISTER

THE Wise One and his sister had no snowshoes, so the sister decided to make some.

2 In the fall, the Wise One's sister made a hareskin garment.

3 She cut the garment from a single skin and she was the first one to do this.

CHAPTER 4
THE VERY HIGH

THE Very High lived at the foot of the sky, with his wife.

2 Their clothing was beautiful and they made something on which they lay down, slept and meditated.

3 The husband was called "He Who Sees From One End Of The Sky To The Other."

4 His wife's name was "She Who Is Never Seen Going Out".

5 The Very High made the beaver and the hare and placed them on the earth.

6 He threw the beaver down like a stone, which is why there are lots of beaver.

7 He reached out to show the earth to the hare and there were lots of hares.

8 We knew this story before the French arrived.

9 The one who is seated in heaven looked at the earth and decided there should be many animals.

10 He threw the beaver to the earth like a stone and that is why there are many beavers.

11 Then he reached out towards the earth with a hare, but the hare was frightened.

12 "I'm going to be made a slave!" he thought. "Alas! Alas!"

13 Then he was released.

14 Now there are plenty of hares on the earth.

CHAPTER 5
THE SHINING STAR DISCOVERED LONG AGO

THE Very High One lived at the middle of the sky and his wife at the edge.

2 Their son, while walking across the sky, noticed this earth and he went to his father.

3 He said, "Father seated on high, light the Great Bear, for our grandsons on this little island are very unhappy. They are calling to you to come to them."

4 So it is said by the old men that before the French came, a bright shining star was discovered, like a fire burning high in the sky.

5 A few men followed this star and went far away.

6 Since then, the Chipewyans have no longer walked with us.

CHAPTER 6
HE WHO SEES BEHIND AND BEFORE

HE Who Sees Both Ways could be heard playing rackets in the sky and his wife used to dance, shaking her large breasts.

2 Then weeping was heard: "Alas! Alas! Our grandchildren! Alas!" they cried.

3 Since then, men have destroyed themselves, because in the past they played rackets.

4 It is because man is going to die that they were weeping.

CHAPTER 7
THE SHARK

THE Shark cast a spell: "Men shall die," it said.

2 It threw a stone at the water and repeated, "Man will die". That is why we always kill sharks.

CHAPTER 8
THE SEEING ONE

A young man crawled into a porcupine's lair in the ground. He grabbed the porcupine and killed it, then he roasted it over hot coals.

2 "He walks in the middle of the fire," he heard voices saying.

3 "I want to get out of here," he thought.

4 But it was pitch black and he couldn't see where he was going.

5 Suddenly, the Seeing One banged on the ground with him axe and made an opening and the youth scrambled out.

6 He looked at the Giant and said "I'm frightened of you, Grandfather!" And he hid himself.

7 The Giant beat on the rocks with his stone axe head and made a thundering noise, then the rock split open and he grabbed the young man.

8 "Grandfather, I'm so scared of you!" the man stammered.

9 But He Who Sees Ahead and Behind said, "Grandson, I don't kill men, come and live with me."

10 So the young man lived with the Giant.

11 The wise man lifted the man onto his shoulder, by his neck and carried him away.

12 "Over there are some hares," the Giant said, indicating some caribou.

13 He fired some barbed arrows and killed two caribou, which he slung from his belt.

14 He made a fire and said to the man, "Grandson, put some straw on the fire." (He was referring to some trees). "Make the fire with that," he said.

15 They roasted the caribou.

16 The Giant split the heads as if they were hares' heads and he gave the entrails to the man, but he had great difficulty in eating them.

17 "Grandson, your stomach is so small!" said the Giant, as he ate up all the caribou.

18 "My dogs will eat the bones," he said.

19 The muskrat was like a flea to the Giant, and one was on his shoulder blade.

20 He crushed it with his thumb and killed it.

21 Then he saw a huge elk.

22 "Grandson, look at that pheasant!"

23 He shot it with his arrow, killed it and gave it to the man to eat, but he could not eat it all.

24 "Grandson, you have such a small stomach!" he said and he ate the elk himself.

25 Then he caught a big beaver with his hook and he sliced off its tail.

26 "Grandson, here's a morsel for you!" he said. "Eat it for it is good!"

27 The man swallowed part of it, but he could not eat it all.

28 Then the Giant said to him, "He Who Sweeps the Sky With His Head is angry with us."

29 So he put the man in his knife sheath and set off with him.

30 The man lived with the Giant and slept on his pillow, next to his head.

31 "Grandson, if He Who Sweeps The Sky With His Head should kill me, my blood will be spilled all over the sky," the Giant said.

32 The Giant took a fish hook to catch a herring.

33 Then he made an axe from the tooth of a female beaver, and he set out to find He Who Sweeps the Sky.

34 He Who Sees hated He Who Sweeps the Sky.

35 "I shall follow his trail," the Giant said to the man. "You go round the lake and when you are close to him you hear this noise: 'Pan! Pan! Pan!' hold the beaver tooth up high."

36 He gave him the axe and the man set off.

37 Suddenly he heard "Pan! Pan! Pan!" which sounded like a frozen broom sweeping the ice.

38 Then He Who Sees went toward the broom and the broom turned into a Giant.

39 The two Giants started fighting.

40 "I'm holding the giant beaver tooth in the air!" the man yelled and he ran along the trail.

41 Something similar to a ball of dung was rolling along the ground.

42 "Grandson, kill his son!" said the Seeing One.

43 The child was wrapped in swaddling clothes and the man tried to grab his hair but could not.

44 Then the Giant killed the child by throttling him.

45 The Giant then went to where the other Giant's daughter was and he urinated nearby, making a river which carried the girl away out of sight.

46 So the whole family of Sky Sweepers was wiped out.

47 The Giant said to the man: "Return to your people, Grandson. If He Who Sweeps The Sky With His Head should kill me, my blood will be spilt in the sky and it will turn red again."

48 Then he cut his walking stick in two.

49 He said, "When you sleep, put this beside your bed and light it at one end.

50 If you are frightened, climb to the top of a pine tree and call for me, and I shall come to you."

51 The man went far away and that night he climbed to the top of a pine tree and went to sleep.

52 Suddenly, he was awakened by a gnawing sound.

53 He shouted, "Grandfather, your dogs are gnawing at my tree with their teeth."

54 The Giant had many so-called dogs, including caribou, bears, wolves, foxes, badgers and mice.

55 Indeed, these creatures were all attacking the man's tree, causing him to yell.

56 Suddenly he heard, "Dawn is coming! Night is flying! Dawn is coming! Here! Here! Here!".

57 All the dogs immediately fled away and returned to their master.

58 The man climbed down from his tree, put the Giant's stick by his bedside and lay down to sleep.

59 Suddenly, his mother was standing beside him.

60 She had abandoned her son far away and now she thought he was dead and wept over him.

61 "Die everyone! Burn my clothes!" the man cried.

62 Everyone died, and then: "Get up!" he commanded.

63 Then everyone rose up and were men once again.

64 He put his snowshoes upright beside his bed: "Change!" he commanded, and instantly they were turned into little trees.

65 "Change back!" he said and once again they were snowshoes.

66 Suddenly, the sky became blood red and the man ran into the woods, sobbing loudly. "Grandfather! What misery! What unhappiness! Grandfather! Alas! Alas!"

67 He followed a girl and sat down beside her.

68 He gave her fat and turned bone marrow to steam and he gave her fat meat.

69 Finally he got up no more.

70 He said, "On a slope, on an island, there is a tomb.

71 When my throat bursts, place my bones in the tomb."

CHAPTER 9
THE TWO BROTHERS WHO WENT TO THE MOON

TWO brothers paddled away in search of duck's down which could be found clinging to the branches.

2 They went far away from their own country and eventually came to a high land.

3 Many men lived there, and the younger brother disappeared.

4 The older man looked everywhere for his brother, but could not find him.

5 Suddenly, he came to the end of the earth.

6 He grabbed on to a tree root and his younger brother seized him and carried him to safety.

7 "From now on, listen to what I say carefully," said the younger to the older brother.

8 They went on foot to a nearby camp, inhabited by otters instead of men. Again the younger brother disappeared.

9 "Why has he gone away again?" thought the older one, and he hastened after him in his canoe.

10 He paddled into a channel and the otters went diving in search of his brother.

11 They found him in the water and the brother brought him up in a net.

12 Then they abandoned their canoe.

13 "This is not our homeland!" said the older one. "Let's throw away our canoe!"

14 So they threw it away and set off together along a wide road, lined on either side by trees planted equidistant

from one another.

15 "Brother, don't steal anything!" said the older brother.

16 Further on there was a big tent.

17 A beautiful girl was seated inside.

18 "My sons-in-law, you are two men, aren't you?" she said.

19 "We were once young men," they replied. "We were returning to our father by canoe, but we got lost and now we have grown old and our people will not know us any more."

20 "My sons-in-law, I am the Day Sun and your Grandfather is the Night Sun. You are unhappy, you say, then obey my man," said the old woman.

21 At dawn, her man returned.

22 He was handsome.

23 The brothers said to him, "Grandfather, we are lost and our people no longer recognize us."

24 The old man went away again and below them they could hear men shouting.

25 "They're shouting for us, no doubt," thought the brothers.

26 Then the man said, "If that is so, hold on to my wings and lie down with me."

27 Suddenly he got up and with the brothers clinging on to his wings, he flew away like a star.

28 "Let's pause to catch our breath," he said to them. "Take these feathers and return below to live."

29 The feathers turned the brothers into little ducks and they went down on foot.

30 Since that time, little ducks have come down from the moon on the wing.

31 That is why there are many ducks on the earth.

CHAPTER 10
THE INVISIBLE WOMAN

THE younger of the two brothers was missing and the older one said to himself, "My brother's canoe has sunk."

2 He set out to look for him, but although he searched for two full winters, he could not find him.

3 One day as he was stalking some ducks, he saw a canoe lying by the water and a swan swimming nearby.

4 The swan was singing and he could hear the sound of canoe paddles.

5 Then he saw his younger brother paddling on the open water and he hurried towards him in his canoe.

6 "Brother, where have you been for the last two winters?" he asked.

7 "I was lost in my canoe," replied the younger one.

8 He was wearing fine clothes, his hair neatly combed and his face was shining.

9 He killed two swans and then said, "Come with me to my hut in your canoe."

10 They paddled to the hut and there discovered many beautiful clothes.

11 He had many other fine things, too, including elk hides, meat, porcupine quills and many feathers.

12 But there was no woman to be seen.

13 The younger brother had married an invisible woman, and therefore his older brother could not see her, for no man had ever seen her.

14 "The only man I will have," she thought, "is one who can see me, but if a man cannot see me, then I will not take him."

15 The older brother could not see her. She turned herself into a swan. "What is this swan doing here?" wondered the older brother. He still could not see the woman.

16 The swan made a meal which they ate, but the older brother could not see her.

17 The younger man gave his brother skins and meat and he shared the same pillow when they slept.

18 But when the older man awoke he was alone - his brother had disappeared - but all the gifts were still lying nearby.

19 He never saw his younger brother again, and this all took place a long, long time ago.

CHAPTER 11
THE TWO BROTHERS

IN the beginning, when the earth was born, two brothers went out to explore the heavens, but independently of each other.

2 They were young children then.

3 "Let's see who can go the fastest! Who has the best legs! Let's bet on it!" they said as they set out.

4 Many years later, they met again, but now each had become an old man, supported by a crutch.

5 "Who are you?" they asked each other.

6 "In the beginning, when the earth was born, we went out separately, to go round the sky, don't you remember?" they said to each other.

7 "Yes, yes," they replied.

8 "I wanted to put everything in good order.

9 I don't remember now where I went.

10 What about you, brother?" said the older of the pair.

11 "Yes, I also went far and wide and I used to wonder if my legs were strong.

12 But eventually I became wretched.

13 But I looked to the future, stretched out like the earth, and I wanted to help men improve their lot," replied the younger.

14 A tall mountain rose up before them.

15 "I wonder who put this mountain here. Crawl inside it," said the older brother to the younger.

16 The younger brother went inside.

17 Suddenly, the mountain was spread out and there was a flash of light and the old man reappeared as a child again.

18 Then another mountain rose up.

19 "It's my turn to go into the bosom of the mountain," said the older brother. "We shall see one another again, hopefully."

20 He went inside and again the mountain collapsed and spread out like a tent.

21 The older brother reappeared as a youth once more.

22 "We have become again as we were in earlier days.

23 When we made the decision to explore the sky and do things, we wondered for a long time what kind of man we would become.

24 We succeeded in putting everything in order and in bringing truth to men - we hunted giants, murderers, sea monsters and chased them far away.

25 We shall make sure there is no more evil.

26 We shall live in men and show them how to cook with red stones and how to make a cooking pot out of roots.

27 In the future we shall be men again."

28 All this happened as they had spoken.

29 When old age overtook the two brothers, the mountain made them men again, so it was said, long ago in far off times, which will no longer be.

CHAPTER 12
THE RAINBOW

TWO brothers were out walking together when a rainbow appeared.

2 "That rainbow will be mine," they said and they ran towards it.

3 They ran far away and eventually reached a mountain slope where there was an old man sitting in his hut.

4 "What are you doing, grandsons?" the old man asked.

5 "Grandfather, we are running towards the rainbow, but we no longer recognize the land and we have come the wrong way."

6 "Why are you trying to reach the rainbow? You may look at it, but don't go near it," said the old man.

7 "I am going to give you this arrow. Go towards the setting sun and when you want to shoot something, use this, but do

not go back to reclaim the arrow."

8 They ate and then the brothers set off again.

9 After a while, the younger one said, "I'm going to shoot that squirrel."

10 He fired the arrow and then went back to retrieve it.

11 The arrow darted away and he and his brother went after it.

12 Further away it went and they chased after it again, till they were far away.

13 Suddenly they were confronted by a mountain of enormous size which touched the sky.

14 They followed the arrow almost to the summit.

15 Then they heard voices from inside the earth.

16 "Your language is different!" the voices said, and they heard people laughing at one another.

17 "Brother, I hear people chatting inside the mountain," the older one said.

18 But they could not abandon the arrow, and eventually they reached the sky at the very top of the mountain.

19 There were many men assembled there.

20 "What are we going to do?" the brothers said to themselves, "This mountain is tough, they tell us, and it has become too small to accommodate everyone."

21 Someone lit a fire, but there were asphalt mines there and the rocks began to split.

22 The men shook with fright, and suddenly the mountain subsided and became a vast plain and the terrified men ran away.

23 They scattered in many directions and eventually new nations were formed.

24 From then on, no common language was spoken.

25 There were instead many different ones.

CHAPTER 13
THE MAGICIAN AND THE OTHER WORLD

ONCE upon a time there was a man who used a catapult to kill people.

2 He would hit them in the eyes with something.

3 One day he followed a bird to its home in the south.

4 This man's name was The Miracle Worker, and he was reputed to be very powerful.

5 The bird arrived at the base of the sky and went among the souls.

6 In the south west there is a hole in the base of the sky and in front of the hole stands a large tree.

7 The souls of dead men pass through this hole.

8 It is very cold there, but it is the home of wild game, of fleeing spirits and of thunder.

9 The Miracle Worker looked through the opening, then he cast his nets into the river to catch young fish.

10 On the other bank could be heard the sound of dancing, but only the legs of the men could be seen.

11 Separately we sleep from one another," they sang as they danced.

12 The Miracle Worker - Burnt Corpse as he was called - lived among them.

13 As I have said, there was a big tree there and the Miracle Worker seized it and catapulted himself into the sky.

14 The fleeing spirits dwelt in the little fawns still in their mothers' womb and they hunted frogs, mice, still-born fetuses and squirrels. For they ate all these creatures.

15 The Miracle Worker lay dead for two days.

16 Then he made camp twice and he killed a fetus and thus was restored to life.

17 A long time ago a man did this, it is said.

18 This earth was called the other earth, in the far distant past.

CHAPTER 14
THE HUGE GIANTS

BEFORE men disappeared, the Wise Man went off alone somewhere.

2 He was on a path crossing a lake when he saw a large elk walking along and he went towards it.

3 The path divided into two at that point.

4 "I wonder why there are no people here, and why there is such a wide path. I shall turn myself into an ermine and if there are giants, I shall run far away," he said to himself.

5 He did as he'd planned and shortly giants arrived.

6 When night fell, he went among these giants, along a well trodden path towards the water and there in a tree he crouched, disguised as an ermine.

7 Suddenly, a giant passed by in a hurry, heading towards a mountain.

8 He reached the mountain and slipped into the earth from where voices could be heard.

9 The man threw a lighted tinder into the earth and he heard someone inside say, "It smells as if something is burning!"

10 A great fire was started and the entire mountain was burned and all the giants were wiped out.

11 There have never been any more giants.

CHAPTER 15
THE WISE MAN OR THE SAILOR

THE Wise Man was old and had no family.

2 He lived alone. He went somewhere one day and arrived at a tall tent where there was a beautiful woman seated.

3 She welcomed him and roasted some meat which he ate and he lived with her.

4 The woman was a member of the Mouse people.

5 She said to him, "Son-in-law, why have you come here? You don't have any family, do you?"

6 The Wise Man lived and slept with her.

7 While he slept, a mink and an ermine dug a hole in his flesh and entered his body.

8 The Wise One pulled them out and jumped up.

9 He was angry with his woman because she had deceived him.

10 The woman went to her father and cried, "This man has beaten me!"

11 Her father was a large bear.

12 He had many fruit trees and when he went out, the man ate lots of fruit. Then he killed the large bear and his daughter, the mouse girl. Then he cast some magic spells on the earth.

13 After this, he decided to go to look for some wood in order to make arrow shafts.

14 He went somewhere and, seeing a large tree, he threw a stone into it and many shafts fell to the ground.

15 Then he went to look for arrow heads and, arriving at the sea shore, he saw a rock lying nearby.

16 He threw it in the water and then he threw it in the fire, then the volcanic rock split up and he got all the arrowheads he wanted.

17 Next, "I need feathers for the arrows," he said and off he went.

18 He arrived at the eyrie of a large eagle and the eaglets were sitting in the nest, so he sat with them.

19 "Is one of you a scandalmonger?" he asked them.

20 "Yes, my younger sister speaks maliciously," replied an eaglet.

21 "When your father returns, what will happen?"

22 "When my father flies home, there is a bright light."

23 "And if your mother comes home, what will happen?"

24 "Then darkness comes," replied the eaglet.

25 The man was sitting in the eyrie when a noise was heard, suddenly there was a bright light and the eagle flew back to the nest, and it was daylight.

26 "I can smell human scent! I can smell human scent!" he said.

27 "Well, you bring human flesh to my nest and that's why it has a human smell to it," said the eaglet.

28 At that moment darkness fell and the mother flew to the nest.

29 "I can smell human scent!" she said.

30 "You bring human flesh here, that is why it smells," said her baby.

31 Both of them turned and flew back and the Wise Man plucked out their feathers and set fire to the nest.

32 He burned the mother, and grabbed the young one and plucked his tail feathers and wing feathers, then he went away.

33 He had lots of tail and wing feathers and he made his arrows.

34 The Wise Man had no relatives and he lived alone with his sister, who was his wife.

35 Their son came into the world. He cried and whimpered ceaselessly.

36 "Why does my son always cry?" the Wise Man asked his wife.

37 He went down beside the water.

38 "My son has nothing to play with," he thought.

39 He cut down a tree for the boy and chopped off its branches with an axe.

40 Still the child wept continually.

41 The father returned to the tent.

42 "Give my son to me," he said to his wife. The Wise Man made him jump and the boy cried no more.

43 After that, he made a spear.

44 "I'm going to kill every man," he thought.

45 He went to fetch dead willows and he made the tips into very sharp points.

46 He threw them out of the tent and drove them into the ground all around the tent.

47 "Why are you acting like that?" his sister asked him.

48 When evening came he said, "Sister, if someone comes, don't get up."

49 As dawn approached, they heard a crowd coming.

50 The dry willows planted in formation, pierced them all and everyone perished.

51 After that he said to his sister, "Sister, make me a papoose."

52 So she made a papoose and he sat in it.

53 "Let's go to the sea together," he said.

54 He went off disguised as a baby and lay in his papoose, near the other men.

55 "Oh! A baby is here!" he said.

56 Suddenly, he pushed away his papoose and made himself a man again.

57 Then he killed everyone.

58 He also killed his sister and all the other women, so eventually there wasn't anyone left beside the sea.

59 Then the Wise Man made a big raft. "What are you going to do with that raft?" people asked him.

60 "If a lot of water comes, I shall get on board it," he replied.

61 "Oh, we shall climb the trees," they said.

62 "Well, if there is a flood, I shall live on the raft," he said.

63 Accordingly, he braided some heavy ropes and worked on things to make the big raft.

64 Suddenly, the water thundered down.

65 Men climbed into trees, but there was so much water they all perished.

66 The Wise Man had lashed the raft together with ropes.

67 He cast off and floated away over the water.

68 He picked up animals, two by two, and put them on his raft - carnivorous animals and birds as well.

69 "There will no longer be land," he told them.

70 For a long time there was no land, and no one went to look for it.

71 The muskrat dived down into the water to look for land.

72 Half dead, he returned to the surface.

73 "Nothing at all," he said.

74 Again he plunged down, and when he resurfaced he said, "I smelled the smell of the earth."

75 The beaver then dived in and was gone a long time.

76 When he resurfaced he clutched some mud in his paw.

77 He gave it to the Wise Man.

78 The old man sprinkled it on the water - "Let the earth be reborn!" he thought, and he blew on the mud and made it bigger.

79 He placed a pretty little bird on it, and the mud grew larger.

80 Then he place a fox on it and the fox ran around the mud and again it grew.

81 He ran round it a second time and it grew still larger.

82 He had six sleeps and ran round it again and it was complete.

83 The Wise Man put all the animals on the earth and also his children.

84 "Let there be men on the earth again!" he said, and there were lots of men once more.

85 Then he went off on his raft but the sea stretched on and on and he could not reach its end.

86 But the Drinker drank all the water till there was none left.

87 When he had drunk all the water the man went to look for him.

88 The Wise Man said to the plover, "The Drinker is lying by the water's edge. Go and pierce his belly."

89 The plover went to the Drinker and pierced his huge stomach so the water came roaring out and filled the rivers and lakes once again.

CHAPTER 16
THE RAVEN, DESTROYER OF MANKIND

THE Raven lived alone, but he always flew close to the Wise Man.

2 "Don't act like that!" the Wise Man said to him.

3 "If you kill me and throw me into the fire, at that moment all mankind will disappear," said the Raven.

4 But the man did just that - he killed the Raven and threw his corpse on the fire, and then there were no more men around.

5 The Wise Man went out in search of everyone, but there was no one left on the earth.

6 "How did the Raven do that?" wondered the Wise Man.

7 He went over to the Raven's burned and bleached bones, picked them up and laid a little skin over them, so that only the tail showed beneath it.

8 Suddenly, the Raven was sitting beside the Wise Man.

9 "I shall remake all men," he said. "Let's go together."

10 Beside the water there was a fat jackfish lying on the shore, and a loche was also stranded there.

11 "I am going to one, you go to the other," said the Raven.

12 They did so and from out of the jackfish's mouth came all the men, while all the women came from the loche's mouth.

13 Once again, there were lots of human beings around.

14 One day, all the animals disappeared and people went out to look for them.

15 In the forest the Raven cawed ceaselessly and caused all the caribou to flee.

16 "Raven, you are impossible! There is no more meat to be had!" people said to him.

17 The Raven had built himself a house on an island and strips of beaver meat were hung nearby.

18 A woman who had set snares to catch caribou went to inspect her traps and discovered the Raven's house so she went inside.

19 "So, you are roasting meat!" she said.

20 "Well, it's not quite cooked yet,"

the Raven replied.

21 They argued for a while.

22 Suddenly the Raven decided that the future was looking grim and flew away.

23 The woman trapped many caribou, while the Raven could be heard croaking in the woods.

24 When the men arrived, there was much succulent caribou meat, and they sat down in the house to eat.

25 But all was not well.

26 The Raven had put dog droppings into a sack.

27 In his absence, the party sat down to eat and they consumed part of the fat, but the rest they put in a sack.

28 In the morning, they ate the dog droppings, for the Raven had tricked everyone by switching the lard and the droppings around.

29 The Raven had disappeared and was nowhere to be seen.

30 The tiny screech owl had built a magic hut.

31 "I am going to weave magic spells," she said.

32 She wanted to catch the Raven, so she cast a spell.

33 "I cannot see him, for my eyes seem to be burning," she said.

34 She made some more magic.

35 "Far away at the end of the earth there is the Raven," she said.

36 Everyone set off through the forest to find him.

37 There was a tent and inside there was much meat, cut ready for drying and there, too, was the Raven.

38 "Do you have meat?" they asked him.

39 "Well, I do have some," he replied.

40 Then they took all his meat and once again there were lots of animals.

41 The men said to one another, "Let's kill the Raven!"

42 But the Raven flew away.

43 "Caw! Caw! Caw!" they heard.

44 Once again men reappeared and the Ravens lived among them.

45 It happened that the curlew refused to give her beautiful daughter to anyone.

46 "My daughter will not marry a good-for-nothing man," she said, and she refused her to everyone, even though she was very beautiful.

47 "Come on, Raven! Make yourself handsome!" everyone said to him.

48 Then the Raven made himself very handsome.

49 He put on fine clothes and he went to see the curlew.

50 He was very proud of himself as he paddled towards her.

51 He disembarked and the curlew and her daughter went to fetch meat, which they ate and the dog and his daughter were also present.

52 The old woman thought to herself, "That one will be my son-in-law".

53 But she did not realize he was a Raven.

54 They went to bed but the daughter got up and went to the Raven.

55 He slept with her, sprawling all over her and sleepwalking on her.

56 He blindfolded the dog and he climbed on top of the woman's bed.

57 He rubbed her body all over with his droppings.

58 The old woman thought, "He is sleeping with my daughter."

59 She went over to him and she saw the dog blindfolded and her daughter filthy dirty.

60 "What has happened, daughter? There are three toe marks on you and you are all dirty," she said.

61 She washed her daughter with hot water, but to no avail!

62 "Take off your shoes!" she said.

63 Everyone took off his shoes and she examined their feet.

64 "You too, you take off your shoes," she said to the Raven.

65 The old woman did not think he was a Raven.

66 He lifted his feet in the air - "Three toes!" everyone cried.

67 They made fun of him and he grew angry and flew away.

68 "Caw! Caw! Caw!" he cried to himself.

CHAPTER 17
THE SAILOR

THE first sailor built a canoe.

2 "I'm going to make a canoe," he thought, but he did not know what materials to use.

3 He went down beside a little stream and gathered pine bark with which to make the canoe.

4 He threw it in the water and followed it but it drifted slowly and floated badly.

5 He gathered birchbark and threw that in the water.

6 It drifted fast and floated well, so he made the canoe out of birchbark, beside the stream.

7 But, alas! So many things he did!

8 He chased the Shaven Heads far away from him.

9 "I'm going to hunt lots of Shaven Heads," he decided and he set off downstream in his canoe with the men.

10 They reached a noisy, fast-running rapid and beached their canoes.

11 He put a jackfish in his canoe; a toad jumped out of the water, the jackfish leapt up, the toad swam back to the canoe, its flesh ripped open.

12 It stood on the canoe and the sailor put it inside.

13 On the bank, a frog and an otter were arguing.

14 The frog was tanning a beautiful skin, the otter was tanning an ugly skin.

15 The frog said to the sailor: "Grandfather, give me my harpoon. My harpoon, why do you treat my canoe like that?

16 The sailor put him in the canoe.

CHAPTER 18
THE RAVISHED WOMAN

THE Woman was called, "She Who Is Ravished" and her man was called "No Fire".

2 Men were continually fighting for her, but she had been carried away by a man called "White Horizon".

3 The woman loved food and was always eating.

4 However, there was a famine and no one was killing anything.

5 Her man went far away in search of caribou.

6 "Where I live is terrible," he said. "Let's go to the sea. Come with me - that other fellow wants to fight with me over you and I cannot stay here."

7 They had one son.

8 The wife was so beautiful that people wanted to kill the son.

9 They went away somewhere and on arriving by the sea, began fishing with hooks for trout.

10 By nightfall, they had caught two trout in this way.

11 Then a fox was heard fleeing in the distance.

12 "Oh, they're coming to fight, because my wife is so beautiful," he thought, whilst she ate continually.

13 "Come on, let's lie down here," said his wife.

14 The man lay down with her and her son slept beside her.

15 During the night they could hear warriors talking and fighting.

16 Then there was silence and they could hear no more.

17 Everyone had gone and there was only human blood left.

18 It was as if large animals had been slain there.

19 Then the woman disapeared.

20 On the shore an enormous wolverine was crouched, devouring the human corpses.

21 The son, the man and the woman disembarked nearby, but she made fun of them.

22 They stayed with their only son and made a stew, then the man lay down with his son.

23 Then the woman arrived. Henceforth, she did not eat very much meat, for she had devoured human flesh.

24 No Fire carried his canoe to the sea and went away somewhere in it.

25 His wife, for whom battles were continually being fought, followed him.

26 "My wife must not wander away," he thought and he put bouys in the water and cut notches in the trees as well.

27 His woman hid herself.

28 "My man is marking his path," she thought, and she went by the buoys.

29 She reached the open sea and came to a channel, so she stayed there.

30 "My man will look for me," she thought.

31 She was vain to have spoken thus.

32 All the men set out to kill her husband.

33 They met at the small waterfall and lit a fire.

34 The woman arrived at their camp, which was a large one on the shore.

35 They had lots of coal.

36 There was quite a crowd and large bones were hung in the air.

37 Suddenly a man saw the woman approaching along the path.

38 "She looks like my wife," he thought, "but her clothing is different, so it can't be her."

39 He followed her and seized her elbow.

40 "I want to sleep with you," he said to her.

41 The woman stayed with him, but she made fun of him so he beat her.

42 "Bring some dry wood in here," he said.

43 "I went out to fetch some but then my rope broke," she said, and he beat her again.

44 The woman ran away from him.

45 That night, people were out all around the village, fighting.

46 No Fire arrived in search of his wife.

47 "When it is dark, strike a light and set fire to the ashes," the woman said to her husband.

48 Night came and She Who Had Been Ravished spoke thus: "The men have gone to search for you.

49 They have stopped their work.

50 No doubt they are very lazy.

51 They are far away from their homes and very discouraged.

52 What are you afraid of?"

53 So the light was struck, but the fire was seen.

54 Suddenly a grouse was heard clucking.

55 The ravisher came out to get the woman, whose husband was hidden outside.

56 She struck the ravisher's arm with the axe and killed him.

57 "His mistress did that, I suppose," said the husband.

58 He killed everyone and took back his woman.

59 He also captured the wife of the man who had ravished his woman and two other women as well.

60 There were five caches of meat, all full, so he took these also and set fire to everything else.

61 All this happened in the distant past.

CHAPTER 19
THE MAN WITHOUT FIRE AND THE WOMAN WHO WAS RAVISHED

THERE was a man called No Fire who had a wife over whom there was much fighting.

2 Another man, called White Horizon, had again kidnapped her. She was known as "She Who Is Fought Over".

3 She had been made a slave and lived with the men.

4 There was a great mountain and beyond it stretched the sea, but she lived inside the mountain and could not escape, for there was constant fighting going on.

5 Inside the mountain dry branches

were piled and bad magic was practiced there.

6 Fires were lit inside the earth and men lived underground.

7 They killed caribou, dried the meat and then stewed it.

8 It was then carried underground and placed inside the earth in small packages.

9 Many people lived there, underneath the mountain.

10 She Who Is Fought Over went to the south, for the warriors had gone to fight in the west and there was no one left.

11 A dog could be heard underground, but there was no one there.

12 When everyone had left she returned.

13 At last she heard voices saying, "There are people living underground."

14 Then a man appeared and it was her husband, No Fire.

15 Once again, he reclaimed her.

CHAPTER 20
WHITE HORIZON AND THE HARE EATER

WHITE Horizon's family were plotting to kill him.

2 One day he saw some sheep on the edge of a high precipice.

3 He went towards them and the people heard him doing something and went to investigate.

4 There was a shout and they found a young boy there.

5 "What did your uncle say that makes you shout?" they asked him.

6 "Let's go and kill beavers he said to me," replied the lad.

7 White Horizon killed him, then he stood up and went off to look for a path.

8 He built a hut through which the path went.

9 The flock of sheep had gone away, so he went to hunt beaver.

10 Suddenly he flew into a rage and began to beat everyone with his cudgel.

11 He killed all his family.

12 Only the White Diver escaped.

13 As for Hare Eater, he climbed a mountain and stayed there.

14 White Horizon climbed up the mountain after him.

15 "You've killed our whole family - why do you follow me?" Hare Eater said to his nephew.

16 "You say I have killed our relatives, then kill me!" replied White Horizon.

17 "No, I couldn't do that. Let's go away from here," replied Hare Eater.

18 Suddenly, White Horizon flew into a rage and he pushed his nephew over the precipice and he also threw his two wives down onto the rocks and transformed them into rocks by magic.

19 They were all turned into stones and they are there still, standing on the mountain side.

20 You can see them high on the mountain called Jackfish Lake.

21 White Horizon had another nephew, called Ekhetsinye, and he threw him over the edge too, and changed him to stone.

22 He went to the Mackenzie River and built a fire under the pines and lived with his brother-in-law.

23 "I'm going to hunt beaver," he said.

24 While he was away, everyone ran away into the bush.

25 There was a child suspended by ropes with whom they amused themselves.

26 His younger brother, Kfwinpeli, also went hunting.

27 Then in their absence, White Horizon returned and he disguised himself as a bear so as to spy on his family.

28 They stood around, playing with the child who was tied up.

29 Two old women saw him and said: "There is White Horizon walking around disguised as a bear."

30 When night came, the two brothers returned from the hunt and went in their hut to sleep.

31 White Horizon went in and killed them while they slept.

32 Only the Diver escaped from him and he recounted the story to the Dene people.

33 White Horizon saw him and followed him.

34 The Diver lived alone by the waterfall.

35 White Horizon followed him there and tried to catch him with a hook, but although he wounded him, he could not kill him.

36 White Horizon killed the first sea otters.

37 Then he spied a giant beaver and he sang a magic song so the beaver left the water and was captured.

38 White Horizon and the Diver fought one another, but old age overcame them.

39 "We can kill each other," they thought.

40 But although White Horizon tried to use his knife and the Diver tried to use arrows, they could not do it and so they left each other in peace.

CHAPTER 21
THE FOREIGN TRAVELLER AND THE INHABITANTS OF THE NIGHT

THERE was a woman who was married to two men.

2 These two men were brothers and they were angry with one another.

3 The older one, called No Fire, tied two pieces of wood together and put his brother inside, then he threw him into the sea.

4 The coffin floated along until it was washed up in a strange country, rolling onto the shore like a log.

5 A fox came up, untied the cords and the man stepped out onto dry land.

6 There were many footprints on the beach, which looked to him like pointed snowshoes.

7 A thick fog came down and then it grew dark as night fell and it was difficult to see where he was going.

8 He heard noises echoing in the distance.

9 "What's that over there?" he heard someone say.

10 He hid beside the path and two men came by.

11 "Who is there? I'm going to see," one of them said.

12 On the shores of nearby lakes these people cared for the young birds, gently caressing and kissing them.

13 These people were half human and half dog, having a human body and dogs' legs.

14 "Who is there? It is someone we don't know," they said.

15 Then a young boy ran over and said, "I can detect the smell of a human being."

16 An old man with dog's feet went all around, sniffing everywhere.

17 "It's definitely the smell of a human being," he said.

18 He looked behind his house.

19 "If it is a man, I want to find him," he said.

20 "Little birds whom we love, and with whom we sleep, we shall find a little man for you to love," he said.

21 Two youths went off to look for him.

22 Being dark, the man was walking along the path and they saw him.

23 "Father, it's a man, it's a man!" said one. "It's a stranger, a traveller!"

24 "Seize him and bring him back with us," said the old man.

25 They took him and brought him to the Chief.

26 He was inspected, embraced and kissed.

27 Everyone hugged him and welcomed him.

28 He was invited to live with them and the old man gave him his daughter, with whom he slept.

29 The owls came out to hunt in the dark and the old man said he was going to the lakes to capture some owls.

30 He set his snares and said, "Guard these snares," so the man-slave watched over them.

31 "Two owls are coming, see!" someone said. "The Wayfarer has chased them from the lakes."

32 "What a wicked slave we have!" one man exclaimed. "He lets the owls fly away."

33 But another argued, "It's not his fault that two owls flew away."

34 The man went after the owls, shot them with his arrows and hung them from his belt.

35 He entered a small house and put some dry wood on the fire.

36 Outside he heard someone say, "Daughter, he is putting wood on the fire! Leave my house!"

37 He left the house and went far away.

38 He killed a caribou and then returned to the house.

39 But it was very dark and there was no one there.

40 He opened the door and threw hares' eyes onto the fire and suddenly it was light.

41 The blackness receded and all the houses were burning.

42 "The flesh has fallen into the fire," he heard someone say.

43 The traveller pulled the meat out of the fire with a hook and said, "Change!" and suddenly two caribou ran away.

44 "It's magic!" he said.

45 "I'm going to kill an elk," he said.

46 He went away.

47 The old man, his grandfather, ran in like a dog, looking for his wife and children.

48 "Children, save yourselves! There is a giant caribou hiding beside the path!" the old man said to them.

49 "We know this caribou," said the woman, "Pitch camp, children."

50 The human traveller saw the caribou and killed it.

51 He cut it up, skinned and gutted it.

52 He ate some of the meat and exclaimed, "Oh, what delicious meat!"

53 Then the traveller said, "Grandfather, I wish to return to my own country."

54 The old man gave him an eagle's skin and he made up two packages of meat for him, which he attached to the eagle's skin with ropes.

55 "If you are tired, you must say, 'Kokkakoae'!" the old man said to him.

56 He did this and a flat rock appeared in the sea and he slept on it.

57 The eagle grew tired again and again he cried, "Kokkakoae!" and another rock surfaced for him to sleep on.

58 Eventually they reached land, but the eagle had no more meat so the traveller gave him some of his meat and the eagle was able to deliver him to his own country.

59 There was a house on a mountain with two women inside, but there was no man.

60 He turned himself into a wicked little fellow and went in.

61 "Oh, wicked little man, cook for us and sleep with us," the two women said to him.

62 He cooked for them and they made fun of him, and he slept with them.

63 One of the women said to him, "I have no man, he has gone into the bush!"

64 The other woman's husband was called "No Fire". He had two wives.

65 He returned to the house and they said to him, "This wicked little man has come to us, he cooks for us."

66 They ate.

67 Then the wicked little man suddenly made himself a man again and his little knife became a great sword.

68 He thrust it into "No Fire" and killed him.

67 He killed the woman whose husband had gone into the bush but the other good woman he took for his wife and lived.

70 This was the story of the Shadow People.

CHAPTER 22
THE MEN THROWN IN THE FIRE

ON the other side of the earth, two brothers killed everyone by fire.

2 The whole of humanity was destroyed.

3 "I did that," said one of the two.

4 But the older one replied, "You are speaking in vain, you lie when you talk like that."

5 "Well, take me and throw me into the sea," said the first.

6 His brother seized him and threw him in the water, but it happened that the land moved forward and they ran towards it so they were not swallowed up.

CHAPTER 23
THE TWO WIVES

TWO wives of the same man went off to look for eggs, around an island.

2 The canoe ran aground and was wrecked and they did not know what to do.

3 There was plenty of wood on the island and also plenty of resin, which they gathered.

4 There were also flat rocks upon which they made a fire to melt the resin.

5 Then they poured it over the flat rocks.

6 Two birds flew down and landed on the rocks, their feet became stuck and the women killed them.

7 There was a cave on the island which they entered and they ate wild fowl after plucking the feathers and drying the meat.

8 Then winter came.

9 "Where shall we live?" they said.

10 They ate the flesh of birds and thus survived the winter.

11 In the spring there were more eggs and they lived off these.

12 Suddenly, they heard someone paddling a canoe.

13 "Where are my two slaves hiding?" they heard a voice say.

14 The two women looked and one of them called, "Husband, I wish to speak to you, paddle the canoe over here."

15 But there was no response and she spoke to him in vain.

16 "I have made holes in the rocks! I've burned the rocks!" she sang.

17 Her husband was afraid and he paddled around to the other side of the island and hid himself.

18 Then he heard one of his wives say, "I don't want to sing for my husband; I don't have a husband at all, I think."

19 She laughed gaily.

20 But the other wife was sad and he heard her weeping.

21 He approached the wife who was mocking him and killed her, but the other one, who was unhappy, he took back.

CHAPTER 24
THE FIRST WAR OF WHICH THE CAUSE WAS THE OWL

WHEN the earth was new, men used to fight, and kill one another over the Screech Owl.

2 Many men killed an owl for its feathers.

3 "Give it to me! Give it to me!" they said to each other.

4 Then a certain old man took it.

5 "It's my owl and I won't give it away," he said.

6 He ran away from the mob.

7 They chased him and killed him, then left his corpse.

8 His family fought among themselves and thus it went on, people fighting and killing each other until there was a war.

CHAPTER 25
SHE WHO FELL FROM THE SKY

IN the beginning, an old woman lived alone with her three children, but she had no man.

2 The woman was working at making fringes from porcupine quills and her son said to her, "Mother, are you doing that for me?"

3 "I am doing it for your father's taboo," she replied.

4 Her son slew an elk and cut it up.

5 "Mother, do you have a rope?" he asked her.

6 His mother held out the cord from her satchel to him.

7 In the satchel lay an otter and she tied it to a tree.

8 Her son cut meat off the elk he had killed and made a huge fire.

9 He moved the open satchel in which the otter was lying.

10 It was lying in a stupor, among the fringes but when it was moved near the fire, it was revived again.

11 The young man threw it into the fire.

12 The fringes made a sound like "Tra! Tra! Tra!" and ever since then all fires have made a crackling noise like that.

13 Then the young man killed the otter.

14 His mother came back and felt around in her satchel.

15 "Why did you throw my otter on the fire?" she asked her sons.

16 This otter was actually her husband.

17 The son remembered that at night, he could hear his mother laughing.

18 The woman was angry with her sons and she beat them and chased them away.

19 Her sons were frightened and ran to the river, but their mother followed them there.

20 When they reached the river, they said to her, "Mother, let's cross over.

21 Slide your headdress over the water."

22 She slid her bonnet over the water and they ran across.

23 On the other side a huge monster was lying and they ran right past his nose, the mother as well.

24 But the monster hacked her to pieces with his horns and threw the chunks of flesh into the air, where they were turned into snipes.

25 "Caw! Caw! Caw!" they said, but no one saw them, and ever since they could be heard but not seen.

26 This woman was called, "She Who Is Ravished" and her Husband's Name was "No Fire". A son was born to them and he had a very bad temper. His name was "The Hunter."

27 They had one daughter.

CHAPTER 26
THE HUNTER

THE woman called "She Who Is Ravished", her son, "The Hunter", and her only daughter, together killed an excellent man.

2 They saw a man all alone and thought he was going to kill them, so they killed him first.

3 It was winter time and they disappeared into the bush.

4 They lived on an island, hidden from everybody.

5 One day, the man strayed away from the others and suddenly he heard a voice calling to him: "My older brother says this to you, 'You have killed an excellent man! You are murderers!' he says to you!"

6 The man ran back to his house and said to his older brothers, "That man we

killed a while ago - his younger brother just said this to me: "You have killed an excellent man!"

7 They immediately struck camp and fled away.

8 They lived among other people, but kept themselves to themselves.

9 "If someone looks at you and then turns away, it's because he hates you."

10 "Kill him!" they said to one another.

11 There was a long peninsula, covered in grass, where their children lived.

12 They lay down in the grass.

13 Suddenly there was a big fire!

14 "Let's kill them!" the people thought.

15 The grass was completely burnt, but they escaped to safer ground, ahead of the flames.

16 "See, our flesh is not roasted!" they said to everyone, laughing.

CHAPTER 27
THE MOSS CHILD OR THE MAN IN THE MOON

A tiny baby was crying by the water's edge, and many girls ran to look for it, but couldn't find it.

2 An old woman went to look and all the girls followed her.

3 She found the child and picked him up.

4 She gave him to a young girl to suckle.

5 He was naked and had no clothes.

6 Then the old woman brought him home and raised him.

7 When he was a little older, he said to her one day, "Mother give me bone marrow."

8 But they did not give bone marrow to him and he went to bed in a rage.

9 At dawn they broke camp and prepared to leave while he was still sleeping.

10 The old woman said to him: "Son, we're leaving. Let me carry you!"

11 But there was no answer - it was as if he was dead.

12 The others left him there, but the old woman lay down beside him.

13 Midnight came.

14 "Mother," he said, "Make a fire at the door of the tent."

15 The old woman made a fire for him, gathering the wood and piling it in the doorway and setting light to it.

16 "Reach into the midst of the fire," he said to her. "Isn't that how caribou feet are sometimes done? Don't they have cloven feet?"

17 "Yes," replied the old woman.

18 "If that is so, then put me outside," he said.

19 She put him outside. He placed many hooks in the water and caught two fat trout.

20 He returned to the tent and lay down again to sleep.

21 The old woman woke him: "The fish hooks are set," she said to him.

22 But there was no response; he was sleeping.

23 It grew cold and she wept over him.

24 "I shall light a fire for you," she said to him.

25 Then she said, "Come on, let's go on again!"

26 But still he slept.

27 The little old woman wept bitterly for it was as if his heart was frozen.

28 At last he got up from the ground.

29 "Mother, look inside my mitts," he said.

30 She put her hand into his mitts and there inside were caribou tongues.

31 She was delighted and she roasted a trout.

32 Then she went off to catch some hares.

33 A lake stretched out at the child's feet and he went to where caribou were lying, which he had killed. He butchered them and dried the meat.

34 "I want the shoulder, and the chest

as well. Give them to me," said the Moss Child.

35 But no one would give them to him and he cried.

36 He ran among the tents looking for his mother.

37 His mother said to everyone, "My son has said to me,'Give these two things to me'. It is terrible not to give them to him."

38 But there was no response.

39 An old man said, "Don't give them to him. The child is too spoiled."

40 The child wept and went to bed, very angry.

41 The men killed many muskoxen after that.

42 They cut up the flesh and transported it across the river where they roasted it.

43 The Moon Man decided to play a trick on them.

44 "Nonna tamine! Nonna tamine!" he chanted.

45 We don't know what it means, but that was what he said.

46 At that very moment, the beef meat crackled and became living animals again.

47 These animals ran off and there was no meat left.

48 "It's that wicked little boy who is responsible," they said. "We'll get him!"

49 But the boy slipped away from them.

50 An old man chased one of the animals but couldn't catch it and so they had no meat.

51 For a long time the child did this.

52 "Let's go and live by ourselves," his mother said to him.

53 So they set up a tent together and the child went out to lay some traps.

54 He caught two caribou while everyone else was sleeping.

55 They lived with everybody else again but still there was no meat.

56 "Why do you behave like this?" his mother asked him.

57 He caught plenty of caribou with his traps.

58 Then the child decided not to torment his fellow men any longer.

59 "Mother," he said, "my uncles have no meat.

60 Make some pemmican out of caribou and I will take it to them."

61 So his mother made some for him, and during the night he disappeared.

62 The old woman slept for she was no longer worried.

63 "I imagine he is performing miracles again, wherever he has gone," she thought, no longer concerned.

64 At midnight her heart was like ice and she awoke.

65 Outside, the pemmican was where she had put it.

66 The Moss Child killed an ermine and let its blood spill onto the path as he walked along.

67 He walked round the outside of the house, spilling the blood, and he also let it run over the pemmican.

68 The ice on the lake was beginning to melt and holes were appearing where he walked.

69 The meat was lying there and as he was walking round the ahouse, at the same moment, the meat was restored to a living animal again and took off.

70 Then there was lots of meat available.

71 After this he went fishing but caught nothing.

72 The child stood by the water and said: "So! I have come from the foot of the sky to my adoptive parents' land. Why is the water not full of fish?"

73 As soon as he had spoken there were lots of fish.

74 Then the Moon Man said once again, "Separate the shoulder and the chest for me."

75 But no one gave them to him.

76 His mother asked the people but in vain.

77 Nothing at all.

78 An old man said, "Don't give them to him - he is too spoiled."

79 The child went to bed without eating.

80 Then he said, "Mother, fasten your tent very securely with ropes."

81 "Why do you say that?" she asked.

82 But she always did what he told her, so she obeyed him. After they were in bed, a mighty wind was heard.

83 The old man, who hated the child, said, "His sleeve is attached, his cauldron is in the air and inside the wind is blowing."

84 His adoptive father and mother got up.

85 There was no one there.

86 Their son was no longer inside the house.

87 They ran among the huts, but there was no one left, only a lot of people who had died in the night.

88 Then the child went to the daystar and sat down on it.

89 After that there were many caribou trails and his father and mother went off to hunt caribou.

90 His mother set a trap, and she caught a caribou.

91 It looked like her son.

92 She studied it carefully then took it back and slept with it, but nothing happened.

93 "I must take my son," she thought, but nothing came of it and she was not able to revive the animal.

94 Suddenly her son was there.

95 He said to her: "Mother, don't interrupt me, for I am speaking to you. Be quiet. I went to the Day Star. Men will see me there. The heat from the Day Star is too strong and it is impossible to stay there. So I have returned to you from far away. There will be two more sleeps and then I shall leave again for the Night Star and there I shall sit."

96 His mother wept so he said, "Don't cry! Don't weep for me. Tomorrow and the day after, make camp. Between these two nights, set your nets and wait for the moon (Night Star) both of you."

97 He covered his head and said, "The Moon will do this - it will cover its head. Then Mother, if man freezes on the earth, the Moon's face will grow pale."

98 Then he went away and was there no more.

99 His mother went home and lay beside her husband.

100 "My son told me this," she said, "Do this, he told me."

101 So they camped twice, then the Night Star appeared with the child sitting in it.

102 They set their nets and caught two caribou in their traps, and they lived on them.

103 Later, they said to each other: "Let's go to him together.

104 So they lay down and the moon drew near till it reached the spot where they were.

105 A handsome old man, with long white hair, was running as if the moon were walking.

106 "Oh my son! My son!" his father cried.

107 "Oh my children! I'm in too great a hurry!" the old man said and he continued on his course.

108 Ever since then, the child who was called The Man In The Moon, has not been seen by us again.

CHAPTER 28
THE LITTLE LOVED ONE AND RUNNING RAVEN

A child was raised among the bad people, for his real parents had been killed long ago.

2 He lived with an old lady.

3 There was a man called Running Raven who lived in a log house.

4 Two women sat at his side.

5 His beautiful vessels were arranged at the back of the house.

6 He owned many things.

7 One day the child said to his mother, "Grandmother, I am going to see the Raven."

8 The old lady replied, "What do you want to do that for? He's powerful, you know. It's dangerous, you know, if you go to see his house."

9 However, the child said, "It's alright! Don't worry!"

10 The old woman left him alone and the child went out.

11 The child reached the house and he poured something around the beautiful vessels displayed around the house, then he set fire to them and burned them up.

12 The Raven was not there.

13 His wife said to the child: "Why are you doing that?"

14 The Raven could be heard at the back of the house: "Who's burnt my utensils?"

15 "The Little Loved One did it," she said.

16 The Raven flew into a rage and the child hid himself.

17 When night came, the woman made a large dish into which she put the child to cover him up.

18 But he performed some miracles.

19 The Raven awoke to find his house full of fine down.

20 While everyone was asleep, the child had taken some bird medicine which was suspended on a cord round his neck and he had scattered the down feathers throughout the house.

21 The Raven said, "Why did you do this?"

22 No reply, he pretended to be asleep.

23 "Let's go and fight where the Dene are hiding," they said.

24 So, they left for war.

25 The child was at his mother's house.

26 His mother wanted to carry him, but he said, "Grandmother, I want to follow the men."

27 "What do you say: 'I want to follow the men', you say?

28 Your clothes are too thin, you will freeze," the old lady replied.

29 But while she was asleep he disappeared and joined the men.

30 They went to the Raven's place, right up to the door.

31 "My son, why do you do this? Your blanket is wet with dew," the Raven said to the child.

32 He had hidden his hair, for these people were the Shaven Heads.

33 They went off to fight the Dene, to meet them.

34 All alone, he pierced the men while they slept, he pierced them with his arrows and he massacred all the men.

35 That was how he massacred the Dene: a child was tied up and people were playing with him.

36 "He hasn't killed anyone," the Raven thought sadly.

37 Then the small boy killed a puppy, cut off its nose, mixed its droppings and its blood together and smeared the tent with it.

38 Then he went to bed.

39 During the night the blood flowed abundantly.

40 "In the house the blood flows! The blood flows!" he sang.

41 "Misery! the blood punishes him!"

42 Then it was really bad and the Raven merely said: "They have cursed the Great Mountain!" He has eaten the animal-god!"

CHAPTER 29
FUNERAL PASSAGE AMONG THE TENTS

IT was almost at the thawing of the snows, the month of the rut, when the Moon goes away from the sky. At this time, meat is cooked in the earth, in cooking pots.

2 Meat is put into bags and the young people's saddle bags are full and they wander around with them, carrying a stick in their hands, and then at midnight they pass all round the tents.

3 "We're going to carry the moon," they say.

4 They carry their pouches on their

backs and wind in and out between the huts, ringing bells and singing and they can be heard far away:

5 "Pass! Shrew mouse two times in a cross jump over the earth quickly! Mountain pines, come!"

6 "Why does the Moon roll away and fall down so it is no longer there?" they think.

7 After that, they feast in the houses all night long.

8 The Man In The Moon, for whom they do this, says:

9 "When the Moon falls, live in the snow and make a feast."

10 Because the Man In the Moon says so, they obey him.

11 Some folk sing these words: "It's heavy! Shrew-mouse, you have carried me on your back. Wooded mountain, come!"

12 Others say: "Shrew mouse, two times one after the other, jump over the earth! Come on!"

13 Still others: "Hey! Shrew mouse! Across your back you have carried me. Wooded mountain, come, lure us to you as if with a hook!"

14 The River dwellers sing like this: "Pointed snout (Mole). Across your rump we have fled. Wooded Mountain, come!"

15 They don't laugh, for it is the spirit of death.

16 The Man In The Moon is called "Belly Shield".

CHAPTER 30
THE DOG MEN

A giant kidnapped two sisters.

2 He said: "I want to have one head; I want to have a single head."

3 "No," he was told, and then he grew angry and kidnapped the two sisters and made off to the land of the Dog Feet.

4 A man called He Who Performs With The Wand went to look for the two sisters.

5 He arrived in a country where the inhabitants used little snowbirds for food and he stayed with them.

6 He set lots of snares and caught many little birds, for he drove them towards the snares.

7 He also shot many caribou with his bow and he stayed there a long time.

8 Then he went to a country where the people used fat partridges as their food.

9 He seemed to be weightless and he went along as if he was a partridge.

10 A fire was burning in the open air and an old woman was seated by it.

11 "What's this? My son-in-law, you have come to me.

12 I am going to give you some meat," she said to him.

13 "We are good folk, but those Dog Men are very difficult people to get along with."

14 Her sons came back from hunting, carrying some large partridges.

15 They took the fat and had a feast, then these people took the partridge heads and threw red stones into the fire and the water boiled. The water boiled so the cauldron was full, then they ate the fat flesh.

16 After that he became very light.

17 At last he was at the edge of the land of the Dog Men.

18 He could not go on for his snowshoes were completely round.

19 After the thaw, a large hut appeared.

20 Some little dogs lived there and he hurried towards them.

21 He could hear a lot of noise coming from there.

22 It was dark so he threw hares' eyes on the fire to make some light.

23 His two sisters were living there.

24 Their husband the Giant Man, had gone hunting so the man went to his sisters.

25 Two small puppies were playing by the fire.

26 "Mother, here's my uncle," the puppies said.

27 "Who is your uncle?" said the mother.

28 "My brother-in-law has gone to hunt caribou," the man with the wand said to them. "Follow me, both of you, for I have come to take you away."

29 "Your brother-in-law is powerful, you know," said the two sisters, "It's impossible! He will kill you."

30 "Follow me," he replied.

31 So they threw their children far away and followed him.

32 They camped.

33 While they were asleep, the Giant cast a magic spell and they awoke on the top of a tall rock.

34 The women were frightened.

35 "Go back to sleep," their brother said, so they lay down again, and by power of thought he made the earth flat again.

36 Again they camped, and this time when they awoke they were on a little island.

37 "Go back to sleep," their brother said, then he made a causeway and they crossed the water on it.

38 Again they camped, and this time the Giant bombarded them with thunderbirds.

39 The older brother trapped the thunderbirds in a willow snare and killed them.

40 He made a canoe and they paddled away.

41 Then it seemed as if they would sink in the middle of the sea, which seemed to stretch on for ever.

42 The two sisters cried, but the brother made a loop out of a willow and he saved them.

43 They camped again, near a waterfall which was flowing into a deep ravine.

44 The two sisters were frightened but he levelled the ravine and he lowered the course of the river so they were saved.

45 The following night it grew very dark.

46 The two sisters wept.

47 "Go back to bed," he said to them.

48 As soon as daylight returned, they were men again.

49 The following night, they were camped when they heard a noise like "xo! xo! xo!".

50 The women were scared for they thought a huge animal had made this noise.

51 "Don't make a sound," he said, and he did something secret.

52 Then with his arrows he pierced the animal's throat and its corpse was lying there.

53 The next night, there was no more water.

54 The women cried and said, "We can't go on."

55 Suddenly, their brother shot an arrow into the mountain side and abundant fresh water gushed forth, and they drank to their heart's content.

56 Now, beside the water was a tent and on the other side was a well, called "Flowing Water".

57 They went in that direction and one day the people living there said, "Three people are coming, two women and an older man."

58 "To what nation do you belong?" they asked the man.

59 But he did not reply.

60 They could not get a single word from him.

61 An old man, of the Cree nation, who was supported on crutches, saw them and said, "My mother, who has been dead for a long time, told me that a Giant kidnapped two sisters.

62 My mother saw it and she spoke of it to me. You are these people, I'm sure!"

63 "Yes!" they replied.

64 And that is the end of the story of the old man called, "He Who Performs With The Wand."

CHAPTER 31
HE WHO ACTS BY THE WAND

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(KOTSIDATOEH)

HE Who Performs With The Wand lived at the foot of the sky.

2 He killed with the Wand, massacred animals.

3 He was also called The Yellow Grandfather.

4 There was a woman who had no man who went to the Great Leaper.

5 "She is bringing supplies for me," she heard the monster say to himself.

6 As she had nothing for him, the woman cried out, "Kotsidatoeh! Come down to earth and protect me from the Great Leaper!"

7 Suddenly, the earth split open, burst into flames and there was a loud noise.

8 Kotsidatoeh appeared at the edge of the sea and beat his wand on the water.

9 The sea divided into two and killed the Great Leaper.

10 Another time, there was a dried up lake where a noise like, "chun! chun!" could be heard.

11 A man went there and found a little old man with white hair dancing.

12 The newcomer danced with the old man, who was the Yellow Grandfather and he gave two caribou slippers to the man.

13 Then two large caribou arrived on the lake shore together.

14 The man killed both, one after the other.

15 It was as if the Yellow Grandfather, when he gave the slippers to the man, had given him two caribou as well.

16 On the shore there was a hut where a baby could be heard, crying.

17 The Giant ran towards it, disguised as an animal, and seized the baby.

18 Immediately, Kotsidatoeh chased him and grabbed his achilles tendon.

19 The Giant fell to the ground, lame.

20 But he quickly recovered and ran on again, still pursued by Kotsidatoeh, who beat him with his wand and killed him.

21 Another time a giant squirrel was running along the beach on the far side of the river.

22 He ran crouched near to the ground, but he could be seen, nonetheless.

23 "I am going to kill everyone," he thought and he grew big.

24 It was an 'ekkwen', known to everyone and very evil.

25 So a man said to his family, "My daughters, pray to Kotsidatoeh.

26 The ekkwen is running by the water. Kotsidatoeh will protect mankind."

27 Many people, including the Wise Man, were troubled.

28 The Wise Man put his tent in order and then begged Kotsidatoeh to come.

29 "Kotsidatoeh, the squirrel has come down among men from the edge of the sky. Oh, Yellow Grandfather, take your wand and act!" he cried.

30 Kotsidatoeh took his wand and ran towards the monster, which he killed and thus he protected mankind.

31 Another time, there was no meat available, so Kotsidatoeh came to man's aid again.

32 He made a giant meat pack and he went to those people who had no food and left the meat with them, then he went away.

33 As he went, he heard a voice saying: "What rascal has been here! I'd like to see him!"

34 Kotsidatoeh was angry, but he went away and disappeared.

35 "They want fresh meat," he said.

36 He went to catch a beaver, taking it from the water and removing the fat from it.

37 He roasted it, but did not eat the flesh, only the fat, then he gave the beaver flesh to the men.

38 Then he lay down to sleep between two fires.

39 "In the future, if you wish to survive, when you trap a beaver, put its flesh far away from you and spill its blood there," he told them.

CHAPTER 32
THE LITTLE BOATMAN

A little rock suddenly appeared in the middle of the Great Sea.

2 Then a young child made a canoe and when he had finished, he played with it.

3 His mother said to him, "That canoe isn't any good. Why do you play with it?"

4 "Oh, mother, what are you saying? Out there in the sea is an island and I am going there. I am going in my canoe, no matter what you say!" replied the boy.

5 He made a paddle and went down to the shore, taking his mother with him.

6 When they had gone to bed, the child disappeared.

7 "What a wicked child! Where has he paddled away to?" they said.

8 They searched for him along the water's edge.

9 There was no island and he could not be seen.

10 His father paddled everywhere, looking for him in vain.

11 Then the child returned again, while they were sleeping.

12 "Mother, I went to the island in my canoe," he said.

13 "We were so worried about you," his mother said to him.

14 "Mother, my canoe paddles very well.

15 The island is a flat rock and a beautiful woman lives there.

16 I sailed all the way there, paddling my canoe, Mother," he told her.

17 "Let's go there!" they said.

18 "When he is a man, we shall obey him."

19 His father sailed with him, paddled over the water, accompanied by all his family, to the island where he had told them there was lots of fish.

20 But the island was no longer there and no one believed his story.

21 Later on, the child went to his father and said: "Father, I have just been to the island. The beautiful woman is there - go there in your canoe! She eats fish and cooks meat all the time. I'm going to camp there and, if you want, you can do the same!"

22 But no one believed him except his father who said, "He's right! Let's do what he says!"

23 "Yes! Yes! Let's obey him! Let's follow him!" cried his mother. "But it will be bad if we are the only ones to obey my son."

24 However, after that, whenever the parents needed something everyone refused them.

25 But the young man was good to his parents, working hard and hunting well.

26 So they lived with the Dene, although only a few Dene people could understand them.

27 So it is that, since that time it has been said, "If a man is hungry and he eats, he is satisfied; but if there is no meat, and he makes light of it, he will not eat for a long time."

CHAPTER 33
EFWAKE

EFWAKE caused great suffering to all the animals.

2 One day he said to them: "Little sisters, little sisters, come to me."

3 A great number of bears went to him, bringing fruit they had picked.

4 "Little sisters," he said to them, "Rub your eyes."

5 When they covered their eyes, he killed them.

6 So it happened that he caused all the animals to flee.

7 Some oxen passed by Efwake as he was sitting in a tree.

8 "Sisters, come to me," he called. "I've found some wonderful pastures for you, where there is lots of grass."

9 Then he said to them: "You two run far away over there and you two run in this direction. Take the shortest path

and make haste."

10 So they ran, but because they were fat they could not run fast and they suffocated and died.

11 Then he melted the fat to liquid and went to the edge of a lake, where there were muskrat and beaver living.

12 He called to them: "Sisters, swim over to me, for I have some excellent reed stems and I want to put this fat on your tails."

13 Then he tied their tails together and applied the grease to the end of each tail.

14 "Now, swim out into the middle of the lake and play with that while you swim," he said.

15 The muskrats and the beavers did as he said, but suddenly the grease was torn and the clear water turned white and the beavers' eyes turned white, too.

16 One day, he chased a lynx and beat it against the walls of a house with its tail.

17 That is why the lynx has such a flat face.

18 Then he started to play wicked tricks on the fox.

19 He grabbed its tail and proceeded to pull it around by the tail.

20 That is why the fox has a long tail.

21 Then he saw a swan flying high in the air. It came down to land near Efwake, who was fasting.

22 The big bird set down nearby. Efwake grabbed it, tied it up and killed it.

23 Efwake kept his huge axe hanging next to his leg.

24 Without this axe he had no strength, but with his axe there was none stronger than he, so it was said.

25 One day, Efwake came upon a group of young girls picking berries.

26 "Little sisters," he called, "I want to go with you."

27 "Well, follow us then!" they replied.

28 They went to look for more fruit which they were gathering on a plate.

29 There was lots of fruit.

30 Suddenly, Efwake took the berries in his hands and pushed them into the girls' eyes, making them blind.

31 Then he thought, "I'm going to the Shaven Heads' village and I am going to make them suffer!"

32 He set off to carry out his plan.

33 First of all he chased them away in various directions.

34 One of the Shaven Heads had caught a number of waterfowl, roasted them and put them on a platter.

35 During the night, Efwake took the birds and hid them in the bushes.

36 When the Shaven Head awoke, he said: "I've been asleep for a long time - what has happened to my birds?"

37 Then a Shaven Head went down to the water and set off in his canoe and he caught Efwake in a net.

38 "Grandfather," Efwake said, "I want to go to the upper earth, help me."

39 The Giant Shaven Head set him on his shoulder and carried him along the shore.

40 Efwake ran away from him and hid, rubbing his body all over with poplar dust and pretending to be dead.

41 The Shaven Head strode over to him and shook him.

42 But he did not move.

43 Then, to escape again, he turned himself into a bear and walked as a bear walks.

44 "A bear has gone into the bush," said the Giant, for he could hear it.

45 A Shaven Head went to look for it, and when he had found it, he cut it up.

46 "This is my head which I've cut up, my shoulder that I've cut up," he said, and so on, until he had named all the parts of the body.

47 He roasted them and when he had done that, Efwake once again slipped from his grasp, leaving him dumbfounded.

48 Now Efwake turned himself into a large elk and walked away, alone.

49 A Shaven Head began to pursue him.

50 He clubbed him on the forehead

and it appeared he had killed him.

51 But Efwake became a man again and went up to the Giant.

52 "This Divine Animal was created in my presence in the beginning when the earth was born," he said.

53 At these words, the moose got up and disappeared into the bushes.

54 Efwake also vanished.

55 Then Efwake turned himself into a carcass which men used to sleep with.

56 A Shaven Head saw him.

57 "A moose carcass, an elk to sleep with!" he exclaimed.

58 He built a hut next to the carcass and slept with it.

59 Suddenly, the carcass jumped up and vanished into the bush.

60 Then he went to hunt for beaver.

61 He found some and brought them back, then he made then run away.

62 After that he took a Shaven Head, under cover of darkness. Then he hid himself from the enemy.

63 Shaven Head went away in the dark, and he was angry.

64 He said, "By my ancestors! There's a huge tree trunk over there!"

65 As he said that, he went away.

66 When he was far away, he camped.

67 He let his stone axe fall to the ground and he threw his club in the water.

68 Then he went far away from the earth.

69 Another time, Efwake was lying in a meadow.

70 All the animals said to each other, "Let's kill him!"

71 They gathered round him.

72 "Hey, fox, you are the most nimble. You go up to him and light a fire," said the animals.

73 The fox lit the fire in the grass.

74 Soon it appeared Efwake had been burned; suddenly his axe toppled over and his flesh was burnt.

75 Then he stood up.

76 "Oh, you are so wicked!" they cried to him.

77 "My sisters, why do you say that to me? I no longer have flesh - see!" he said.

78 After that, Efwake got married.

79 He approached a woman who had a young daughter of marriageable age by a first marriage.

80 So he approached the woman's daughter and slept with her.

81 For this reason his spouse was not all happy with him.

82 "I'm going to kill you," she said.

83 "So, if you want to kill me, pile lots of dry wood on top of me," he replied.

84 It appeared that Efwake was dead, so she piled lots of wood on top of him and burnt him.

85 Then she married again, to a stranger.

86 But, much later, using his stone axe, Efwake hacked his way out from under the massive stump under which he had been buried.

87 When his mistress saw his axe head coming out from under the burnt stump, she was filled with admiration.

88 She said, "Mother, my father is not dead!"

89 His wife grabbed the axe from Efwake and began hacking up his corpse, but all in vain. He revived and was alive again.

90 "So, you took your daughter for your woman," said his wife.

91 Later he went into his wife's daughter's tent again and his wife said, "Why are you going into my daughter's tent?"

92 She set fire to him and burnt him, but the fire simply rose up into the sky.

93 That is why, in the beginning the Kollouches as they were called were burnt.

94 If they had killed someone slowly, the Dene burnt them.

95 However, Efwake did not die.

96 But from that moment on, people plotted to get rid of him.

97 They threw spears in all directions, trying to find him. His masculine attributes were well known, you know, the part of his body by which he urinates.

98 All the girls said, "I am going to seduce him and then burn him."

99 An old blind woman also said, "I want to burn him, too."

100 She approached him and said, "Make love with me."

101 He coupled with her and she played with him and treated him like a woman.

102 "Too bad! Look at Efwake! He's sleeping with an old woman!" the people said, making fun of him.

103 Efwake ran away.

104 "I shall try to be better," he said.

105 He said to the animals, "Dance if you wish, I am going to be good."

106 He built a large house, with lots of rooms.

107 All the animals and birds went inside.

108 When they were all seated inside the house, he said, "Let's dance now, inside the house!"

109 They danced and he stood in the middle of them.

110 Everyone jeered him.

111 Efwake said, "I shall do evil deeds."

112 "You are talking to yourself, for everyone is watching you," they said to him.

113 Then he grew angry and he shook the house to its foundations.

114 The roof fell in, but happily all the waterfowl escaped.

115 All the animals, though, were piled up like fallen logs.

116 He let them out, and the birds flew out through the roof and flew away.

117 The house was demolished and the roof caved in and was trampled as everyone rushed to escape.

118 The water hen, the white headed diver and the osprey reached the water and jumped in.

119 Efwake chased them, but it grew dark.

120 He threw chalk at the diver and hit it and that is why the top of its head is white.

CHAPTER 34
THE WHITE FLOWER

THE White Flower had been kidnapped.

2 How many winters had she been gone?

3 She tended her nets on a lake and lived off fish.

4 Suddenly her two husbands were involved in a fight.

5 Once, long ago, they had done something to someone and now someone set an ambush for them and they disappeared.

6 When the fighting was over, she spied two large canoes and, on investigation, she saw her husbands' heads lying there.

7 White Flower wept bitterly.

8 After that she was greatly afraid of the Kollouches and she pretended to be mad and played around all the time.

9 "Someone killed my father and someone has killed you too!" she said to her husbands.

10 She kept their heads and played with them, making them jump, dragging them around and making them jump again.

11 Thus she pretended to be insane.

12 How many days do you think she slept with her husband?

13 Eventually, she said to herself: "I want to go back to my people," and she set about doing just that.

14 They were lying in bed when she said to her husband, "Sharpen a knife for me."

15 So he sharpened a knife for her.

16 When they were lying down again, she said, "Turn over and lie on your back, for you will fall asleep faster that way."

17 At last her husband was asleep and she slit his throat with the knife, and it made a noise like, "Raw! Raw!"

18 "Daughter-in-law, the dogs are eating the fish!" said her mother-in-law.

19 "Oh, I'm so sleepy!" the woman replied.

20 "Daughter-in-law, chase off the dogs!"

21 White Flower got up and ran outside with the dogs.

22 She took a canoe and pushed off into the water, then she landed near some rocks, dragged the canoe up and hid underneath it.

23 A long time passed, and at last she heard her mother-in-law's voice saying, "Oh, look! She's killed him with a knife! He's quite dead!"

24 Then several people set out in canoes and paddled off into the distance and disappeared.

25 When her enemies had gone, she thought, "I'm going to go away. But where is my country?" she thought.

26 While she was asleep a white wolf came and scratched her, to take her up.

27 "On me! On me!" he said to her.

28 White Flower seized his tail and swam along with him, abandoning her canoe.

29 She reached the country which looked like her homeland.

30 She knew it by the fishing nets which were strung out.

31 She could hear many people playing.

32 An old man was paddling out to his nets.

33 White Flower stared at him.

34 "It's my father!" she thought, but she was not perfectly sure.

35 A little bird flew near the old man: "White Flower tchi! White Flower tchi! he chirruped, but the old man took no notice.

36 For two nights the old man went by canoe to his nets.

37 "White Flower tchi!" he heard, and he thought, "My daughter was kidnapped by the Kollouches so how is it I keep hearing, 'White Flower tchi!' "

38 He said to his wife, "Why does this little bird sing like that, do you think? Give me some dried fish, for I want to give it to the little bird."

39 Then the old man put the dried fish in the woods and hid himself.

40 The dried fish was no longer there, much to his surprise.

41 He heard singing as he went along, and he came upon his daughter lying on the ground.

42 "Father!"

43 "Daughter!" they said to each other.

44 The old man said, "Daughter, there are many people in the houses and someone will kidnap you. Hide yourself again."

45 So after nightfall he returned to her in his canoe and he hid her inside the walls of the house at the back.

46 He gave her food and drink.

47 A long time went by and the young people danced for a baby was living in the house with the old man.

48 "Let's dance! Come on!" the old man said.

49 When everyone had gone out, he cooked a fish and the old Woman took the flesh of the fish to White Flower to eat.

50 Although the child was not big, he was very pleasing and the old man said this to the other men.

51 Then many people came running over the house.

52 When they saw White Flower, they said, "Oh, here's White Flower! I want her! I want her!"

53 Then her father gave her to a good man.

CHAPTER 35
THE LITTLE ELKS

THESE were very difficult to kill.

2 "I want to kill them," one would think, but they would hide themselves behind a large shield, and they couldn't be killed.

3 A young man who had been annoyed by the Dene went to where the dwarfs

were living.

4 He had a beard, we think.

5 When he had reached them, he said to an old man, "Give me some water to drink."

6 The old man replied, "Wife, because I am old, give the stranger some water."

7 He passed a bowl to the stranger, then they went away.

8 "You leave first, leave before me," the young man said to the men.

9 Then he said, "What do you say to strangers when they speak to you?"

10 "Nothing at all," a dwarf replied.

11 Then the dwarf went away, irritated.

12 Let's attack this young man, let's kill him," they said.

13 However, as his mind was not good, they did nothing.

14 When the young man went far away, they followed him.

15 They came to high ground, rising steeply towards the horizon.

16 The young man was seated at the top. The dwarfs stationed themselves on the slope, and being small, they were hidden from the Dene.

17 The young man was collecting large spines when the dwarfs came upon him, and he pushed them so they rolled on top of the dwarfs.

18 Their flesh was torn and bleeding and not one survived.

19 He killed all of them.

CHAPTER 36
THE OLD BLIND MAN

THERE was an old man who had a wife and son.

2 Because he was old, his eyes could no longer see and his wife quarrelled constantly with him.

3 She was not a good woman for she was always tricking him.

4 "There is a moose over there," his woman said to him.

5 "I'm going there, give me my arrows," he said.

6 She gave the old man his arrows and his bow and he shot an arrow towards the moose, pierced it and killed it.

7 "Oh, too bad, you missed it," said his wife.

8 But the old man heard the noise of the moose falling and he said, "Can I hear something struggling over there?"

9 But the woman did not reply.

10 She had gone to where it had fallen and she covered it with her blanket and came back.

11 Later, without the old man knowing, she went back to the carcass and carved it up with her knife.

12 She roasted its rump.

13 Now, although she did this hidden from the old man, he heard the whining of the spit.

14 "What's that noise - it sounds like rump being roasted," said the old man.

15 "That smells like roast meat. What's cooking?" he inquired.

16 "I'm roasting a marten," she replied.

17 Then she went away.

18 The old man could no longer see.

19 He felt around with difficulty, he groped his way outside.

20 He heard a diver crying by a lake and with faltering steps he went towards it.

21 He groped his way down to the shore.

22 "My eyes are no longer good, and my wife and my son have deserted me," the old man said to the diver.

23 Then the diver swam over to him.

24 "Get on my back," he said, and he carried him and dived with him.

25 The water bird plunged deep down and finally resurfaced.

26 "Well, can you see dry land?" he asked the man.

27 "No, nothing," was the reply.

28 Again he dived and resurfaced.

29 "Has the land appeared, can you see it?" the Diver asked.

30 "Not very clearly yet," said the old man.

31 So the bird dived a third time and when they reached the land the old man had become a youth again and could see clearly.

32 Then the old man, who had been rejuvenated set off to find his wife.

33 He came to the scaffold where provisions were stored and there was the meat of the moose which he had shot.

34 He pretended to be blind still and walked as if he could not see.

35 He went up to his wife and handed her his pouch.

36 "Put some meat in this," he said to her.

37 "We have none," she lied.

38 "Go down to the water and bring me some water to drink," he said.

39 "I'll go to the water for you," she said, and gave him some water to drink.

40 It was stagnant water, infested with nasty insects such as water boatmen, which were swimming around in it.

41 This was the water she gave him to drink.

42 "He's still blind," she was obviously thinking.

43 But he said to her, "You want to see me dead, that is why you do this."

44 He threw her over and killed her, breaking her skull with blows from his axe.

45 That's the end.

CHAPTER 37
THE EARTH REVOLVED ON ITS AXIS

THE Kollouches lived in the east, where the sun rises.

2 The Kollouches were formerly their dogs, but had now become men.

3 We, the Dene people, live in the west and we are men.

4 We used to fight constantly with the Kollouches, without a truce, searching here and there to fight with them.

5 Then suddenly the earth was made; it turned from one side to the other, as if it was doing pirouettes, so that at the same moment the Kollouches were in the west and the mountain bighorns were on the other side and we were on this side.

6 We lived beside the Big Sea and there was no one on the earth.

7 We lived among the mountains and in the beginning we still did not know the Mackenzie River, for we lived in the mountains.

8 One day an old man went down to the river.

9 "There are fish swimming in it," he said.

10 He strung his net in a backwater and caught many fish, and that was how fish were discovered, so it is said.

11 That was why the Dene went to live beside the river.

12 Before that, we lived in the West.

13 It was not a very long time ago.

14 This old man was called Old Bald One.

15 Once a bright shining star was discovered.

16 It appeared in the south.

17 The Chipewyans, the Loucheux and the Beavers were one nation formerly, it was said.

18 When the bright star was seen, people thought, "What is happening?"

19 A young Chipewyan man left for another country.

20 His arrows were small, for his wife had not trimmed them with porcupine quills very well.

21 The Loucheux did not speak, but they left and went far away from us.

22 They are bad, but we are a brave people.

23 That is why they ressemble the inhabitants of the forest.

24 Now, in the beginning, there was no metal on the earth.

25 Down below, beside the river, in the Collapsed Earth, as it is called, the Old Bald One discovered something hard, red and similar to bear dung.

26 He called it bear dung for that reason.

83

27 With it he made adzes and lancets.

28 Before that time, the Deer people who lived among us before the French, sold little metal things to us, only as big as this little finger.

27 This happened in my mother's presence.

30 My mother told me this a long time ago.

CHAPTER 38
THE MEAT FALLING FROM ABOVE

FIRST, there were lots of people living in the mountains.

2 Then, in the far distant past, something like little pieces of meat fell from the sky and the Dene lived on this.

3 Lots of people went to collect it for they lived on it.

4 The meat had something small inside it and enough fell for each person.

5 There was nothing before that and it was difficult to survive.

6 Then the meat fell from the sky with something contained inside it and they put it into containers.

7 That is all I know. I remember my father told me that.

CHAPTER 39
THE TWO SISTERS

THE beaver and the porcupine lived together on the other side of the Great River.

2 Then the beaver swam across to this side and sat down beside the water.

3 The big mountain, called the Swimming Beaver, was where she lived.

4 On the other side, the porcupine cried for her and worried about her.

5 She lived high up on Porcupine Mountain.

6 "If only I could swim across to your country, O sister!" she sighed, but she did not know how to swim.

7 The beaver was her sister and she wept and sang "I want to live there, O Sister, can you carry me from here?" (This earth where I wish to live, O my sister, carry me from one side to the other, to her).

8 First they lived together, but then the water was born, at first a lake perhaps, or a river,we don't know which.

9 Then suddenly there was water between them and they could no longer cross over, so the Porcupine lived on one side and the Beaver on the other.

CHAPTER 40
THE SHAVEN HEADS

IN the beginning, a Dene woman had a child.

2 The mother was lying in the house and the baby cried, but its mother did not move.

3 The husband poked his wife with a stick and shook her.

4 Nothing happened - she was quite lethargic.

5 The husband got up and, looking out past the walls of the house, he saw a Shaven Head on the path.

6 The husband swiftly covered his wife with branches, then he went out and hid.

7 The Shaven Head chased him, twice they camped and then he returned to his house, and the Shaven Head followed him there and stayed with him.

8 They sat, on opposite sides of the fireplace, the two men.

9 The Shaven Head lured the Woman Breast for he wanted to kidnap her son.

10 "Her son's flesh is tender," he thought.

11 He pierced the Dene's chest and killed him.

12 "I'm going to throw his stomach in the fire. I'm going to roast his stomach," he decided..

13 He ate it, then having pushed away the woman, he went away.

14 The woman stayed alone and she nourished her son with two magpies' brains and he grew big and strong.

15 "Son, go and visit my rabbit snares," she said to him, "and I will wait for you at camp. Take the snowshoes belonging to the Shaven Head, for they are pointed at each end."

16 He went off to the trapline.

17 When night fell, he had not returned.

18 She set out to look for him, following in the footprints made by the Shaven Head's snowshoes.

19 "Alas! My son is dead!" she thought.

20 She arrived at a campsite, which was the home of the Shaven Head.

21 She killed him and his wife as well.

22 He was holding her own child's neckbone in his hand and when she saw it, she wept.

23 All around the house, children were seated and she killed all of them except one.

24 She spared the very tiny one, wrapped in soft clothes; she did not kill him.

25 "What do you eat?" she asked him.

26 The tiny Shaven Head said, "Someone gave us a young elk, which we killed and ate."

27 This moose of which he spoke was actually the young Dene.

28 The Dene woman wept bitterly.

29 The young Shaven Head went away to fetch a large tree trunk for the fire.

30 He went in the direction of a beaver lake.

31 The woman followed him and saw the young Shaven Head throw his stone axe into the water, then he threw himself in and vanished.

32 The woman spied the beavers beside the lake.

33 "There is our flesh, eat it!" she heard from the water.

34 The woman went up to the beaver lodge and, using her axe as a hammer, she demolished it.

35 Suddenly she heard from inside the lodge the sound of a light being struck.

36 The little Shaven Head killed all the little beavers, she heard.

37 The woman went far away from there.

38 When she had gone a long way, she camped, roasted a beaver and ate a little, then she went to bed.

39 Suddenly, she heard footsteps.

40 The little Shaven Head in his soft clothes came into view.

41 The woman did not even look at him.

42 The child lay down at her side and slept and the woman did not kill him, but watched him with pity.

43 The next day, she went far away again, made another camp, ate again and once again the little Shaven Head appeared before her and slept at her side.

44 He had grown a little bigger.

45 This happened a third time and this time the Shaven Head had become an adult.

46 He went towards her.

47 "What! I'm frightened of him! What is he going to do to me?" she thought.

48 She drew away, but he approached her again.

49 "Oh, my son is dead. I am not one of your people. Why do you act like this?" she asked him.

50 A little later, she had her menstruation and she built herself a hut and slept there.

51 The Shaven Head followed her trail.

52 "The woman is beautiful," he thought, but she was still afraid.

53 The Shaven Head hung up his game pouch and sat down opposite her.

54 She could do nothing, for she was very frightened.

55 The Shaven Head said to her, "You

are one of my people, for sure, why then are you afraid of me?"

56 The following morning, he went out to hunt and he killed an elk for her.

57 All day long he hunted and when he returned he swallowed the moose skin, then he regurgitated it, swallowed it again and vomited it up again.

58 Then he swallowed it again and spat it out again.

59 Thus he made it like parchment.

60 "You must not watch me," he said, "for I cannot do it if you watch me."

61 He put the parchment on his scraper and tanned it.

62 After that he married the woman.

63 Children were born to them.

64 One night it happened that they heard the noise of a dog gnawing a bone in their hut.

65 "What dog is that?" said the woman, but there was no dog.

66 But again they heard a large dog chewing a bone.

67 The Shaven Head threw a bone at it and killed a child.

68 The woman wept, "You have killed your son dog! Why have you killed my son?"

CHAPTER 41
THE SHAVEN HEADS

A single pair of snowshoe tracks could be seen on the snow.

2 A Red Head saw them and followed the trail.

3 "I wonder in which direction these tracks are going," he thought.

4 He followed a little further and came to a fire.

5 There was a house and he went inside, where a woman was seated alone.

6 "Sister-in-law, the cold has seized me, light me a fire," he said.

7 "Grandfather, you are not like the Dene. For what reason do you want the fire?" she asked.

8 "Sister-in-law, I have killed a huge moose and then I was overcome by the cold and I came to you," he said to her.

9 The woman jumped to the other side of the fire and thought, "I'm going to kill him first."

10 She said to him, "I'll chop up lots of fire wood, but I don't have my axe. Give me your big axe."

11 "You wouldn't do anyone any harm with it, would you?" he said.

12 Then she took his axe and killed him.

CHAPTER 42
THE DEPARTURE FOR WAR

EVERYONE was leaving for the war, to kill one another and to fight against each other.

2 However, they were not fighting the Red Heads, but the women.

3 But there were many Red Heads on the path and it was difficult to proceed.

4 An old Shaven Head built a lodge in the woods and in his cooking pot he boiled up a mixture of heads, cartileges and meat.

5 Others were with him in the house.

6 "Don't go to the other tents!" he said. "I'll give you moose meat to eat here in my tent. I am going to make magic against the enemies. The strangers will kill you."

7 Having said that, he began to sing, "I am going to eat all the women among the fat Musk Ox."

8 Suddenly, two ravens flew across the lake to the lodge.

9 "Go to the enemies!" he shouted to them and at the same time he killed two big oxen on the lake and it was as if he had killed the enemy.

10 He chopped up the oxen and it was as if he was hacking the enemy to pieces.

11 He said to his wife, "Woman, chop up the beef meat and fat very finely."

12 She chopped the meat very small and served it to the Dene.

13 He made sledges for his guests.

14 "I'm going to make it very light," he said, "but do not look at me."

15 Having said that, he lashed the sledges and they were not heavy.

16 But a woman said, "What's happening to my sledge?" and she looked back over her shoulder.

17 Immediately, all the meat vanished into the bushes and the meat became heavy.

18 Since then, meat has always been heavy, it is said.

CHAPTER 43
HE WHO CROSSED THE SKY,

THE EVIL SPIRIT, OR THE HEART

WHEN the Aurora Borealis twinkles, it is really the Heart.

2 It is also known as the Evil Spirit, or He Who Flies Across The Sky.

3 He brings death to humans and he burns mankind.

4 Some men are wizards and these have been made sick by him, the Devil.

5 The otter is the Evil Spirit.

6 The Aurora Borealis, therefore, is the Heart (of the Devil).

7 When the Aurora Borealis falls, when it runs close to man, the human brain goes mad and man is seized by the Heart and killed.

8 That is why we are frightened of it and why we reject it utterly and have done for a long time.

BOOK OF GWICHIN
(LOUCHEUX)

CHAPTER 1
WOMEN OF THE DAYLIGHT

IN the beginning there were two brothers, the younger of whom never wore any clothes.

2 He roamed around the house and spent his time making arrows.

3 His older brother loved him and one night after they were both in bed, said: "Brother pierce my armpit with your arrow."

4 The older brother was not wearing any clothes in bed.

5 His younger brother replied: "No, I won't do it."

6 "Ha! Your arrows are useless! That is why you say you won't do it. Come on, pierce my armpit - you probably won't even draw blood," taunted the older one.

7 Then the younger brother took his bow and shot his older brother in the chest.

8 The older brother died.

9 Their mother and father wept bitterly.

10 The younger, naked brother also wept.

11 In despair he fled the house and disappeared.

12 His parents searched for him everywhere, but in vain.

13 He never returned to their house.

14 There was, however, a third son who grew up to be a fine young man.

15 He often used to think about his two brothers - the older one who was dead and the other one who had disappeared.

16 He often wondered what had become of the second brother.

17 One day while out hunting, he came to the edge of a great lake and he heard a loon crying as it swam.

18 "Why is the loon crying, I wonder?" he thought, "Perhaps he has seen caribou and is frightened of them."

19 The hunter followed a trail until he saw the caribou, and he began to stalk them.

20 He reached the water's edge and on the lake spied many waterfowl.

21 The man hid himself in order to watch the birds when suddenly he noticed a large black object like a head appear on the lake.

22 "What ever could that be?" he thought, as he watched from his hiding place.

23 Then he realized that, where the head had been, there was a tall man standing in the water, naked.

24 He was seizing the water birds by their feet and killing them.

25 His clothes were hidden close by on the bank and when he had slain all the birds he could, he left the water and ran back to his clothes.

26 Then the hunter who had been hiding, went up the man and embraced him warmly: "It's been a long time since a child shot his brother with an arrow - it is you, isn't it?" the hunter said.

27 "Yes, it's me," replied the other.

28 "I am your younger brother," continued the hunter. "I have thought about you very often. Now I shall never leave you."

29 Then his older brother said: "Younger brother, I am no longer a man for I have taken a wife who is very terrible.

30 No man has seen my wife, but she has an acute sense of smell.

31 It is impossible for you to follow me. You must return home."

32 But the younger brother replied: "I will never leave you. I must see your wife."

33 So the two brothers set out together to the older one's tent.

34 On the way, the older told the younger: "Your sisters-in-law are very difficult to deal with.

35 I shall say to the first one, 'I have found my younger brother, let's live together'.

36 After I have their reply, then I shall act."

37 The older brother had married two very beautiful wives.

38 The wife who would sit by the door was called, "Evening Wife".

39 The other one, who was usually on the ground was called, "Morning Wife."

40 As they arrived at the house, they heard a woman outside, tanning hide.

41 They could hear the hide being tanned, and they could see it moving, but the woman could not be seen anywhere.

42 They entered the house, where there were many carcasses scattered about.

43 There was the sound of voices but no one to be seen.

44 The older brother said to them: "Give this man meat for this is my younger brother whom I have found."

45 The hunter and his brother were served pemmican on a white wooden board, but they could not see who served it.

46 The two brothers ate and Evening Wife sat close by.

47 When she went out Morning Wife entered and sat near the door, and daylight appeared.

48 She too gave the men tasty pemmican, but she could not be seen.

49 When night fell, Evening Wife returned.

50 Evening Wife laid more meat on the ground; they ate, and they went to bed, but they saw no woman.

51 Then the older brother said: "Brother, our parents are not yet dead.

52 You must return to them if you

have not seen your sisters-in-law."

53 "No, I have not seen them, but I want to live with you. I do not want to go home," replied the younger one.

54 Then Morning Wife went out and as she left, the younger brother caught a glimpse of her beautiful dress, from the back.

55 Evening Wife also went out and, again, the hunter caught a glimpse of the back of her dress.

56 He said to his older brother, "I have caught the merest glimpse of your wives, but only from the back."

57 "I have not told you the whole story," said the older one, "I am not dead, but I went to the moon.

58 There I took two women. That is why you cannot see them."

59 Two more days and nights the hunter lived with this brother.

60 Then he saw the two women again.

61 Their flesh was like snow but he could not see them clearly.

62 His older brother said to him: "Younger brother, your sisters-in-law are pleased with you. They are delighted you have seen them."

63 It was in the fall that the hunter found his older brother and now winter had arrived.

64 The older one said: "Your grandfather moon gives you these two women. Return to the earth; but you will not live there for long.

65 Quickly you will return. He tells you, 'Beware of ice on your path.' He tells you this to warn you."

66 The younger brother took his two wives and set out to return to his father's house.

67 They reached a small waterfall and the path led between the waterfall and the shore of a great lake.

68 The hunter reached the far side first, as night fell.

69 His wives could not be seen.

70 "Where are my wives?" he thought, and he retraced his steps to find them.

71 As he reached the lake shore, he saw his wives out on the lake, walking on the ice. But the heat from their bodies was melting the ice under them as they ran.

72 The man went back to his father moon who was displeased but nontheless gave the man two new women, with these words: "Return to the earth, there I shall test you."

73 Now it happened that the woman who sat near the door refused her husband; she did not love him and would do nothing for him. She was always in bad humour.

74 Her husband would not speak to her.

75 During the day she disappeared.

76 "Where has she gone?" the man wondered.

77 In the evening the woman returned, in a bad temper, concealing something behind her back.

78 "Where have you been?" asked the man, but she did not answer.

79 He had not yet slept with his two wives and therefore had no son.

80 The next day she disappeared again, but the man followed her.

81 "Why does she act like this?" he thought.

82 The marsh was full of dark, muddy water into which his wife waded.

83 She stood naked in the bog, with a black snake entwined around her hips.

84 The man saw this, understood, and returned to the house.

85 The following morning the two women were in their usual places.

86 The one whom the husband loved disappeared.

87 The husband followed her and found her sitting on a white partridge's nest, and he watched her suckling the young partridges.

88 When he returned to the house he did not speak of what he had seen to anyone but he reflected on it to himself.

89 Later, whilest he was occupied in the house making arrows, his two wives entered carrying their children on their backs.

90 They left the children in the house

and went out again.

91 Both children were covered by one blanket which their mothers' had put over them.

92 The man wondered if he could see them.

93 With his arrow he lifted the blanket.

94 One child was a beautiful boy with white skin and swans' feathers entwined in his nose.

95 The man contemplated him for a moment, then he replaced the cover.

96 Then he looked at the child of his other wife, and bad-tempered one.

97 He saw black snakes with wide open mouths and taking his arrows, he stabbed them in the mouth and they died.

98 Their mother returned, very angry.

99 The husband went out to trap hares.

100 He succeeded in snaring some and brought them back to the house to give his wives.

101 The one who had been angry refused to take the hares.

102 Her husband said to her: "Perhaps you think that these hares are my children and that is why you are unhappy."

103 But his wife would not answer.

104 Instead, she grabbed the hares, put pemmican in their ears and, lo and behold, the hares escaped!

105 "You wicked woman," her husband chastised.

106 Then he lay down on the bed and pretended he was not feeling well.

107 "My stomach is upset," he said.

108 The wicked wife made a concoction out of dog's urine and excrement, which she heated and served to her husband.

109 However, he did not become ill and the poison failed to kill him.

110 The next morning, everyone rose at daybreak.

111 The wicked wife said to the other wife: "You be his wife and raise his children. I am going away."

112 She gathered together some plants and disappeared.

113 That is why nothing is certain anymore.

114 The Hudson's Bay Company has arrived and some of us think that the Bay is the wicked wife in disguise!

115 But to return to the story: the husband set out to roam the countryside.

116 He walked briskly and although his good wife tried to follow she had a difficult time keeping up with him.

117 She reached the shore of a large lake and saw her husband had already pitched camp and lit a fire on the far side.

118 By the time she reached the spot, he had gone on again.

119 This happened twice.

120 "My husband has abandoned me," she thought.

121 The next evening the husband again set up camp on the far side of a lake and by the time his wife had struggled around to the site, battling against the wind, the husband was already preparing to leave.

122 He had one snowshoe strapped on and was just fastening the other when his wife ran up to him.

123 "So, you abandon me! You are leaving without me!" she cried.

124 He started to run off, but she grabbed him by the leg and thrust her children into his arms.

125 Then the husband stayed and no longer tried to leave her behind.

126 In time, he eventually married her.

127 These two are without doubt the founders of our race.

CHAPTER 2
THE NAVIGATOR

THE first navigator built a canoe.

2 In the spring he peeled bark off the pinetree, threw it in the water and

jumped in.

3 The bark sank, however, so instead he gathered birchbark and threw that in the water.

4 He jumped in on top of it and the birchbark floated.

5 "I am going to make a great canoe with this bark," he said to himself.

6 Then he clambered to the top of a pine tree, and making himself secure, he fell asleep.

7 The bark and the limbs of the tree were lying in a heap at the foot of the tree.

8 The following morning bark and branches were shaped into the form of a canoe and securely fastened.

9 The sailor launched it, but it took on a great deal of water.

10 The sailor slept again and the next day he caulked the canoe with animal hide and made a paddle.

11 He carried it down to the water and embarked.

12 There was an enormous rock rising out of the water and on top of this rock a raven had made a nest and was sleeping there.

13 The sailor left the canoe and, climbing to the top of the rock, carefully put the sleeping raven in his pack, without disturbing him.

14 However, the raven awoke and said to the sailor: "Don't throw me off this rock, because if you do, men will hide themselves from you upon your return."

15 In spite of this, the sailor kicked the raven off the rock.

16 The sailor then paddled away in his canoe and eventually heard the sound of many men's voices.

17 It was the time of the summer solstice and everyone was celebrating the endless hours of daylight.

18 The sailor steered his canoe in their direction, but when he arrived he found only human bones in the houses and no sign of any men.

19 The only creatures there were a loche and a jackfish, both asleep.

20 Then he heard the noise again, further away.

21 He made his way towards the sound, but again found no one.

22 So he retraced his steps and made his way back to the raven.

23 He collected the bones which were scattered about, covered them and pieced them back together again, with the exception of one claw which was missing.

24 The sailor made a loud noise and revived the raven.

25 Then the sailor sat in his canoe with the raven at his side.

26 "No, I must revive the men," he thought.

27 He paddled to where the loche and the jackfish were asleep and beached his canoe between them.

28 "Pierce the stomach of the jackfish!" said the raven.

29 This he did and from out of the fish's abdomen came many men.

30 Then the raven made him pierce the loche's stomach and from there came many women.

31 And once again there were many people everywhere.

CHAPTER 3
HE WHO SEES AHEAD AND BEHIND AND IS VERY STRONG

THE boatman hunted and slew a porcupine and roasted it.

2 He Who Sees Ahead And Behind saw the fire and went there when it was dark.

3 "Grandson, with my spear I am going to make a pathway for you," said the Giant.

4 "No!" replied the man.

5 He Who Sees Ahead And Behind strode towards the boatman and plucked him from the ground.

6 The ground was hard, but by beating his spear on the ground again and again

he eventually cleared a path.

7 "There, I am not a killer of men," the Giant said to the man.

8 The boatman tried to creep away from him, but the Giant grabbed him by the neck and set him on his shoulder.

9 He had a louse on his stomach.

10 "Put me in your mouth!" said the louse.

11 He put it in his mouth and it became a muskrat.

12 He walked all over the sky.

13 "Grandson, down there are mice scurrying about," said the Giant.

14 With his stone dart he killed them and ate them whole.

15 These creatures which he called mice were, in fact, caribou.

16 He continued his journey.

17 "Grandson, there are two hares crouching down there," he said.

18 These also he slew with his stone dart and hung them from his belt.

19 These animals were not hares, but moose.

20 He gave the rump of one of the moose to the boatman.

21 "Eat it," he said.

22 But it was impossible for him to finish it, so they continued on again.

23 "Grandson, let's go to check my fishing nets," said the Giant. "Very Strong loathes me," he added.

24 Suddenly a fox darted by them: "On! On! On!" he shouted.

25 He ran over the ice until he reached land again and he was transformed into a human - into Very Strong.

26 "Grandson, slash his achilles tendon," the Wise Man cried.

27 The Navigator did as he was bid and Very Strong fell on his back and with an axe, the Navigator sliced his carotid arteries and killed him.

28 Very Strong's wife came running after her husband and with his axe the Navigator slew her, too, from behind.

29 "Grandson, there's still his son - kill him! Kill him! commanded the Wise Man.

30 The Navigator ran towards him.

31 "I'll plunge my axe into his chest," he thought.

32 The child was sitting, crying.

33 The Navigator ran up to him, seized him by the head and split his skull with the axe.

34 Very Strong also had a very comely young daughter and the Navigator now dashed towards her.

35 He climbed up a sturdy pine tree and urinated with such force that the girl was drowned.

36 Then he returned to the Wise Man.

37 The Seer was surrounded by his dogs, which were actually bear, wolf, caribou and lynx.

38 "Go home to your mother," said the Giant to the Boatman, and he gave him his walking stick. "You must leave or my animals will devour you."

39 So the Boatman left immediately.

40 He slept at the top of a tall pine tree, lying in among the branches.

41 Suddenly, after dark, he heard the sounds of animals, and looking down, he saw a pack of wolves pacing around the foot of the tree.

42 "Grandfather," he yelled, "your dogs are about to attack my tree!"

43 The Wise Man called off his dogs: "Caribou, lynx, here fellows, come here!" he cried.

44 All the animals ran towards him and it was said that the mouse arrived first.

45 Much later the man arrived at his mother's house.

46 He remained with her and with his walking stick he performed many miracles. For the stick really belonged to the Wise Man.

CHAPTER 4
NO FIRE

NO Fire and Little Enemy were fighting over a woman whose name was "She Who Delights".

2 Little Enemy had many warriors but

No Fire killed all of them, for he also had a fine band of young braves.

3 The battle raged furiously, while "She Who Delights" watched through a chink in the door.

4 Then she opened the door and stepped outside to watch.

5 She Who Delights had as yet no children.

6 No Fire hated the Loucheux tribe, for they caused him to murder his younger brother.

7 The two men were running towards a river, pursued by many Loucheux warriors.

8 The younger man crossed the river first and No Fire followed him. The younger brother's snowshoes had got wet and large chunks of ice began forming on them so they became very heavy and he found it extremely difficult to run.

9 As a result, his older brother had had to kill him.

10 No Fire had a son.

11 This son was very frightened, so he ran away to a far off mountain.

12 No Fire followed him to the mountain.

13 "My successor," he said to his son, "I have no fire starter and I am turning to ice. Light a fire for me! Lend me your mitts."

14 No Fire had tried to light a fire by planting a torch in the ground, and he had then gone to catch hares to eat.

15 Unfortunately, the hares ran away and snow fell on the torch, knocked it over and extinguished it.

16 He walked away over the mountain, weeping and that was how he came to be called, "No Fire".

17 This was the reason No Fire said to his son: "Make me a fire."

18 His son cut dry wood, piled it and set light to it.

19 Then No Fire seized his dagger and thrust it into his son's abdomen.

20 He slew him and hurled him over the precipice to the foot of the mountain.

21 No Fire then fought and killed many Loucheux braves.

22 There were corpses and blood everywhere.

23 No Fire spoke to the mountain in these words: "Oh great mountain, my grandfather, in the beginning I sacrificed a fattened animal for you. What have you done with it?"

24 No Fire returned to his house, where his sister-in-law was living since her husband's death.

25 This woman was lying in the snow, yelling loudly for she had sprained her foot while snowshoeing.

26 "Sister-in-law," No Fire said, "Tell me a funny story."

27 "My foot is dislocated," replied the woman, "and before you arrived I lit a fire for you. What more do you want?"

28 No Fire's younger brother had owned a puppy which he had raised like a son.

29 "Sister-in-law, leave me alone to sleep. Go away from here and if your dog howls, too bad! Never come back here again!" said No Fire to the woman.

30 So the woman left, sobbing loudly.

31 With her puppy at her breast she went away wandering among strange tribes, over the frozen earth where there was no path to follow.

32 All winter she wandered, often having to sleep on an empty belly.

33 One day she saw a badger running by the water's edge towards her.

34 It ran past her with its head close to the ground.

35 It brushed against her as it passed, but she did not move.

36 The badger was looking for caribou and the woman was able to strike the back of its neck with a stick.

37 She killed it, gutted it, then roasted and ate it.

38 Then she followed the badger's trail to the water's edge, where she drank her fill and so survived.

39 No Fire wandered alone, never resting. The Dwarf had kidnapped his wife so he walked alone.

40 Eventually, as he came near to a Loucheux encampment, he spied a path

in the early morning light and he followed this into the camp.

41 A very ancient woman lit a fire for him, a much larger one than that already burning in the camp.

42 No Fire soon fell asleep and a little later the old woman went to the men of the camp and said: "The smoke from my fire is rising straight up - what does that mean?"

43 The men ran towards her fire. No Fire was lying in the fire itself, but he was awake.

44 "Where do you come from?" they asked him.

45 The men separated into two groups and approached No Fire from both sides. As they drew near they asked him, "Who are you?"

46 Then No Fire sprang up and ran amongst the men.

47 "All winter I have been without a fire, and I am called No Fire," he told them.

48 From then on he lived with this tribe.

49 The following winter he set out to bring back his wife.

50 The dwarf had carried her away from him by force and to find her he walked with many men.

51 Often he had no meat and the enemy was close at hand, but he could not find the dwarf.

52 He used to hunt to eat.

53 Eventually, he made a camp and settled there for a while to sleep.

54 No Fire had a long way to go and to make his journey shorter he practised some magic.

55 In this fashion he crossed high mountains and far below him he saw many columns of smoke, obscuring his vision and extending to the water's edge.

56 There were creatures living under the earth there and he, too, crawled into the earth.

57 His wife was gathering dry wood.

58 He drew close to her and, grabbing one of her legs, he spoke to her: "Your people have come to bring you home.

59 They are extremely hungry - will you not give them some meat?"

60 While he carved up some chunks of meat, she went down into the house and rummaged around until she found some pemmican.

61 She brought this to her husband along with some white fat and gave it to him to eat.

62 Then her husband said: "Do it with me!"

63 But the wife replied "Shut your mouth! I am an old woman and my fire has long since burned out. You are wasting your time!"

64 No Fire left her alone then, and returned to his people on the mountain.

65 "Here is some pemmican which your daughter has made for you," he said to them.

66 He raised up the pemmican and it dissolved in his hands and was nothing but a cloud of smoke.

67 The next day it was cold.

68 They all went down to visit the men who lived beneath the earth.

69 No Fire had said to his wife: "Tomorrow morning, if you hear a grouse clucking at dawn it will really be your relatives, and if you hear a screech owl then it will be me and you must hasten to me."

70 That evening, She Who Delights lay down to sleep between the two dwarf brothers, all three of them under one blanket.

71 She had a flint hidden between her legs.

72 When dawn came, she heard a grouse clucking. "Iyaw! Iyaw!" it said.

73 Then she tore a hole in the blanket with the flint and stood up.

74 She killed the two dwarfs and fled to her husband.

75 She Who Delights had lost her powers of hearing while living underground, but it was restored to her by magic.

76 Then She Who Delights set off across the archipelago, the rest of the party following behind her.

77 No Fire and his wife lived together in a house where a small fire was kept burning, which they used for cooking.

78 Although his wife was now old, she was still very beautiful and desired by many.

79 During the summer they gathered moss together and laid it out to dry.

80 Gradually the pile grew till it seemed to be the size of a mountain.

81 It still exists today, at the water's edge, and it is called, "Big Mountain".

82 One day, No Fire's son took his canoe and set off towards the sea.

83 He fastened his canoe to a tall pine tree, with a stout rope and wandered away.

84 Desired Woman began to cry.

85 No Fire said to her: "One day my son will be revived.

86 I am going to fetch He Who Sees Ahead and Behind."

87 Later he left weeping, in search of the man.

88 Later his wife was again abducted and taken far away over the sea.

89 No Fire was searching for these men.

90 At the edge of the ocean he came upon two children sitting beneath a tree and with them was an old man.

91 The children were his sons, for whom he was searching.

92 Further on he went, and the two children hid themselves from him, although there were no trees along the shore, as far as the eye could see.

93 Suddenly, the children changed into two bears and, walking in a bear-like manner, they crossed the lake.

94 On reaching the other side they became men again and killed the old man.

95 No Fire heard the dwarfs approaching and he concealed himself among some willow trees so as to spy out for his wife.

96 Desired Woman came out at first light and he saw her looking all around, to every side.

97 Finally she stared in the willows.

98 "My husband is there," she thought, and as a sign that she had seen him she drew some water and sprinkled it on herself.

99 Then the dwarf came out of the hut and ran over to her.

100 "Why are you throwing water on yourself?" he demanded.

101 "Because the mosquitoes are biting me and I'm killing them," she replied.

102 The dwarf believed her and returned to the hut.

103 No Fire then returned to his companions who were camped in the bushes.

104 They spent several days exploring the shoreline and moved their camp nearer to the sea's edge.

105 After about twenty days the men returned to the dwarf's encampment.

106 Desired Woman kept a constant watch from her doorstep.

107 Her feet were torn and bleeding and to soothe them she made a mud-pack.

108 She went outside and met her husband, who said to her: "Your relatives have come for you, but they have no meat." She gave some pemmican to the men to eat.

109 "Follow me!" her husband said.

110 "What's that you say ? Keep quiet! I am very old and my feet are useless," she replied.

111 As day broke, the enemies began to fight.

112 There were many casualties; the enemies' houses were ransacked and the occupants killed.

113 No Fire's warriors defeated the dwarfs and they killed and butchered his younger brother.

114 No Fire rescued Desired Woman and escaped.

115 The dwarfs swore revenge, but No Fire and his wife escaped unharmed by axe, knife or arrow and eventually they made it to safety.

116 No Fire lived a long time, dying only of old age, it is said.

CHAPTER 5
THE DOGFOOT PEOPLE

THERE once was a bigamist called No Fire who lived beside a lake with his younger brother.

2 These two brothers were angry with one another and while the younger was sleeping the older one made a drinking trough.

3 He lay his brother down in the trough, fastened him securely inside it with rope and pushed the vessel into the open sea.

4 The floating "coffin" bobbed through the large waves.

5 Shortly, a dwarf seagull flew up to the vessel.

6 "My daughter-in-law, swim ahead for me," the man said and the gull did so, thereby calming the rough seas.

7 The little craft made land safely on the far shore.

8 With difficulty, he stood up and at that moment a white wolf bounded up.

9 "I will bite through your ropes," he said to the man and he set to work.

10 Then a marten came up and she also helped to bite the rope until the man was released and he went on his way.

11 He followed a little path until he came upon a trestle and on this he hoisted the "coffin".

12 Under the trestle there was a great deal of animal fat, but it smelled rotten and although he tried to eat some, he had to spit it out.

13 Darkness fell as with difficulty he continued along the path.

14 There was a white eagle's skin lying on the trestle and he clothed himself in it, and then he was able to fly.

15 He spied a village where children were playing handball.

16 "My birdskin!" they cried, and they shot the eagle's skin in which the man was clothed.

17 Some men came running up to him.

18 "We don't kill anyone," they said to him. "Come and live with us."

19 So he stayed on in the village and lived with the people.

20 These people were half man and half dog.

21 There was a beautiful young girl in the camp whom he went to see.

22 From the waist down, she had the body of a dog.

23 "Enter, stranger," they said to him.

24 Many men ran towards him.

25 "Come and live with me," they all said.

26 He went into one of the huts and was given mouse legs to eat.

27 Everyone lay down, but the Dogfoot people did not sleep.

28 For that reason, two days later they were crying and saying: "Hey stranger! Hey! Hey, stranger!"

29 "He's dead", they thought and they mourned for him.

30 Suddenly, the man woke.

31 He said to them, "I have a remedy for you that will make you sleep."

32 So saying, he threw hares' eyes into the fire and everyone immediately slept.

33 The Dogfoot people used white owls as their caribou and they hunted them.

34 There were two white owls perched in a tree and one of the Dogfoot people immediately began to stalk them.

35 "I shall set snares for them," he said, and he was able to trap the owls, or caribou.

36 He set the snares in the air, suspended over the owls so as to trap them like rabbits.

37 "Stay with us," the Dogfoot people urged the stranger, "and look after our caribou."

38 So the man stayed and watched over the snares.

39 But the two caribou were no longer there, they had escaped.

40 "Have you seen the caribou?" the Dogfoot people asked him.

41 "No, I haven't," replied the man.

42 The beautiful young girl (who was his wife) said, "The caribou must have flown away."

43 Then the man saw two owls sitting

in a tree, and he carefully approached them.

44 He shot at them with bow and arrows and one of them was trapped by his head in a fork of the tree, while the other owl was pierced with an arrow.

45 He returned to his wife, who saw the bird fly away.

46 "Hey, the caribou is flying away!" she cried to him. "Run after it!"

47 He gave chase and brought it to the ground, dead.

48 The other owl, still living, flew into the tent and pecked off the arm of the woman who was seated inside, and killed her.

49 The Dogfoot people struck camp and moved on, and all winter the stranger lived with them.

50 However, there was no meat that winter.

51 "The owls have gone far away and we have no caribou," the people complained.

52 Some of them set out in their canoes for the open water, where there were mice swimming.

53 These mice were also like caribou to the Dogfoot people.

54 They paddled towards them and shot them with arrows, then they moved further inland to where there were more caribou and they hunted and killed all of them.

55 On the shore they butchered the carcasses and the women smoked them so there was meat available for all.

56 The Dogfoot departed once more to go hunting, and while they were gone, the remaining carcasses fell into the fire and were burnt, and the fire then spread to the huts and destroyed them too.

57 The stranger narrowly escaped and the Dogfeet were very angry with him.

58 "This is not your homeland - go away from here!" they said to the stranger. So he left them and went alone on his way.

59 Suddenly, He Who Sees Behind And Before appeared chasing caribou.

60 The stranger followed him.

61 The Giant's snowshoes were pointed at each end and from the back of each a long knife protruded.

62 He took off his snowshoes and, sticking them upright in the snow beside him, he sat down.

63 He promised many caribou to the man.

64 "Why are you following me?" he asked him.

65 The man made fun of him and the Giant asked why he was mocking him.

66 "Ever since I took human shape I have had great success at the hunt," the Giant continued.

67 With the blades which were attached to his snowshoes, he would first skin the animals, then he would slice up the flesh.

68 Again he promised many caribou to the man.

69 "In four nights' time," the Giant said to the man, "when there is not a soul around, a caribou will be slain.

70 Then the Man With Two Faces left the stranger.

71 It was extremely hot.

72 For this reason, the stranger returned to live with the Dogfeet.

73 These people were playing with a ball.

74 One of them said: "I can smell man."

75 Then one of the mischievous youngsters said: "Yes! Human scent - I can smell it too."

76 Suddenly, the Man With Two Faces appeared.

77 "No doubt my swords carry the human scent," he said, "but I have not hunted in vain," and so saying, he killed all the Dog Men.

78 Then the stranger came to the Dog Men's camp, but there was not a living soul in sight - all were dead.

79 So the stranger once again put on the eagle skin.

80 Two Faces said to him: "If the Great Condor flies too far and needs rest, you must say: "Appear, O Log!"

81 The stranger flew out over the sea,

dressed in his eagle skin.

82 Far, far away he flew, without sight of land.

83 "I must sleep," he thought and, remembering his instructions, he said, "Sandy island, appear!"

84 Then a sandy island appeared beneath him, and he landed upon it and slept.

85 Again he flew off, far away, and again he felt the urge to sleep.

86 "O Log, appear," he shouted, and immediately he saw a log floating on the water and, landing upon it, he caught his breath.

87 Then he flew to see his older brother, who had earlier cast him off in the floating 'coffin'.

88 His brother was checking his nets in his canoe.

89 The vulture flew around his brother, and grabbed him by the hair.

90 "Oh, younger brother," said the older one, "it's you! I shall give you one of my wives."

91 "No," said the younger emphatically.

92 He killed his brother and, seizing his hair, dropped him in the water and he sank to the bottom.

93 The eagle then made his way to a mountain top, where the two wives of his older brother were seated in their tent.

94 "Women," he said to them, "in my eagle skin clothes, I have flown all over the earth and I tell you this, there is no one left on the earth."

95 He sat down between them, and he fetched meat for them.

96 To one he gave mice and to the other weasels, which he caught in the bushes.

97 When it was time for bed, he lay down and slept between them.

98 A new son was born to one of them.

99 The man slew the baby by piercing his chest with the stem of one of his feathers.

100 He then killed the two women in a similar manner.

101 It happened that one day, while the man was out fishing, his ankle was grabbed by a huge jackfish which bit into him and pulled him down into the water and drowned him.

102 It is said that the jackfish was in fact, his older brother.

CHAPTER 6
THE MAN IN THE MOON

ONCE upon a time, a child was found by an old woman near some water.

2 She brought him home and raised him, and he grew to be a fine fellow, strong in mind and body.

3 Because of his strength, he caught many caribou.

4 During the night he would slip away and in the morning he would return with many caribou which he had taken.

5 He would kill the caribou by magic, and then turn the fat back into more caribou.

6 Once he asked his comrades for the fat from their slain caribou, but they refused him.

7 He began to cry loudly, so loud that his sobs could be heard all over the camp.

8 His stepfather said to him: "Why don't you go back to the star from whence you came?"

9 But the child did not reply.

10 He slept lying between his mother and stepfather.

11 During the night he disappeared and his mother grieved for him.

12 However, in the morning he returned home.

13 The following night he took his blanket and spoke thus: "Mother, make the tent very secure."

14 He took two marten pelts and split them in two, lengthways, and he hung them up.

15 He instructed his mother to fill a water bag with marten's blood and to hang it over the doorstep and to tie his

little dog close by the doorstep.

16 He continued, "Mother, some time in the future you will die. This earth will be overrun by evil and I do not wish to live here any longer.

17 I am going to live on the moon. There those who hate me will be able to see me. Sshh, don't cry! Don't mourn for me.

18 I tell you this, though - when you prepare meat, use only the caribou's shoulder, carve it up, but don't break the bones.

19 Instead place these bones outside your tent for me, and I promise you there will always be lots of caribou."

20 During the night a great column of smoke arose from the tent and the child disappeared.

21 The moon turned pale and a mighty wind blew around the tents, tearing them up from the ground and flinging the occupants all around.

22 Many men perished and the tree tops were lashed and broken by the furious wind.

23 The upper branches were frozen stiff by the cold and all the animals disappeared.

24 The child went to the moon, taking with the blood, the marten pelts, and it is possible to see him now, in the moon, with the blood on one side and his little dog on a leash on his other side.

25 Afterwards, his relatives did as they had been bidden with regard to the eating of caribou and it was a good life.

26 The shoulder bone outside the tent was turned into flesh which was eaten and again the bones were exposed and the cycle repeated itself.

27 However, at length they grew tired of eating only shoulder, and the bone was broken after one of the meals.

28 Thus ended the supply of meat, for the shoulder never grew again.

CHAPTER 7
THE FUNERAL MARCH

THROUGH THE TENTS

WHEN the snow thaws and the moon is on the wane, at nightfall meat is chopped up very finely and put in mesh pouches, then the procession begins, with the meat being carried on the backs of those participating.

2 The line winds around the tents and eventually enters a tent.

3 The procession circles the tent, meat is eaten by everyone, then the procession leaves again and enters another home and so on, in and out of many homes without stopping.

4 Vermillion tipped arrows are fired in the air and rattles are shaken.

5 The company chants this song of the dead: "O shrew mouse! Leap over the earth twice."

6 The man in the moon instructed us to act in this fashion.

7 We must do as we are bid if we wish to have a good supply of meat.

CHAPTER 8
MUSK OX DUNG

THERE was a race of foreigners who lived among the Loucheux people and who killed them.

2 They were called zenans.

3 These people owned materials, metals, glasswares, and many other objects. They wished to destroy the Loucheux nation.

4 Dung was a child, who was found near some water, in a pile of musk ox droppings.

5 He was discovered by an old woman who brought him home and raised him.

6 She rubbed him with musk ox manure and it is said that by magic he grew to be strong and powerful in thought.

7 He was called "Dung" as a result.

8 The zenans were enemies of the Loucheux and Dung gathered his soldiers together and said, "Let us fight

the zenans!"

9 So they left to go to war.

10 The zenans made fun of the oncoming soldiers and they cooked a little dog and gave it to the Loucheux to eat, but although many accepted the food, Dung refused to eat any of it.

11 Dung saw a handsome young zenan lad and decided to kill him.

12 He picked up some clay, shaped it into a ball and flung it at the boy.

13 It fractured the boy's skull and broke his back and he died.

14 "The zenan people will slay us all because of what you have done," Dung's companions warned him.

15 The young man's mother asked Dung why he had killed her son.

16 Dung punched the old woman on the nose and knocked her over.

17 Dung was strong and he had a powerful mind too.

18 He performed magic tricks, using a caribou antler as a wand.

19 Magicians such as he are no longer seen these days.

20 He was respected by men as being very courageous.

21 He lived with his two wives.

22 So, Dung and his compatriots set out to fight the zenans.

23 Dung wore his pointed snowshoes, with sharp bones protruding from the backs, like horns.

24 They reached the zenan settlement, where Dung's younger sister was living.

25 Her head was covered with white down mixed with vermillion.

26 The zenans had killed her son, and she was very grieved.

27 Dung's younger brother also lived in the settlement and on the night Dung and his followers arrived there was some celebrating.

28 The zenans mistrusted the young magician, as they called him, and wanted to kill him.

29 Dung ran past his warriors and in among the zenan huts.

30 With his bone-tipped snowshoes he massacred the zenans and many of them perished.

31 Dung's mother was seated by herself, weeping. "Oh my son, oh my son!" she moaned.

32 Dung entered her tent and looked at her.

33 When the old woman saw him, she cried: "Who's there? Oh, my son, is it you? Last night your younger brother massacred many zenans!"

34 Dung replied, "Mother, I must have a drink of water."

35 She gave him water, which he drank, then he left her.

36 He went away, leaving behind his people, the Loucheux, his mother, his two wives and even the brand new tent his mother had made for him.

37 All the young men fled from the zenan villages where they lived.

38 Near the villages were wooden trestles on which were hung fine goatskins.

39 The young men took the skins and rolled them into bundles, then they set off again.

40 While their enemies were sleeping the youths ransacked their homes and made off with large amounts of booty.

41 Suddenly they were confronted by a huge wall of water, and a terrible wind was whipping up giant waves.

42 "Come," commanded Dung to his followers.

43 Dung stood alone at the water's edge, sweeping his paddle back and forth over the earth.

44 Suddenly, a gaping hole appeared in the earth and the water roared in.

45 The zenans, who had been chasing Dung, tumbled into the hole and were drowned.

46 Not a single one survived.

47 "My men, come this way," Dung ordered.

48 They obeyed him and soon reached safety on the far side.

49 That evening, Dung gathered his men around him and said to them: "The land to which we are going is far away and I intend to bring it closer. Give me the leg of a fawn."

50 A fawn was caught and its leg brought to him.

51 He snapped it in two and threw it on the fire.

52 Then he lay down to sleep.

53 "Don't eat that!" he commanded.

54 The following morning, the land which they were seeking had magically come closer to where they were.

55 His followers came to him and told him there was no caribou and the children were hungry.

56 There were many people in the camp.

57 In one tent there lay the head of a caribou.

58 Dung took the head and ate it, then he lay down to rest.

59 The reason that food was scarce was a great snake lived on a far away island.

60 He trapped animals and fish and froze them solid, like stone.

61 Dung vowed to slay the Serpent, but he did not know where to find it.

62 He went to sleep and had a dream.

63 The magical child, also called Dung, appeared to him. The adult asked the child to show him the path which led to the Serpent..

64 The magical child did as he was asked.

65 Dung left immediately, finding his way by moonlight.

66 He carried his goatskin under one arm and he walked quietly.

67 He also carried the caribou antler which he used as his wand.

68 It was a heavy object but to Dung it was as light as a feather.

69 He reached the island and in the waters around it he saw many large fish lying frozen in the water.

70 They looked very tender and succulent, but in fact were tough and indigestible.

71 In the middle of the island, was the Serpent's lair in a large hollow.

72 Dung approached the lair cautiously.

73 He threw his goatskin over a stick to make it ressemble a man.

74 Then he slipped round to the back of the hollow and hid himself.

75 In a short while, the Serpent could be heard and all of a sudden it appeared.

76 Dung leapt up and beat the snake over the head with a club, fractured his skull and killed it.

77 Then he went into the lair and discovered many frozen fish.

78 He waved his wand over them and immediately they were thawed.

79 He collected about fifty of them, wrapped them in his goatskin and returned to his camp.

80 "I have slain the frightful beast," he told his warriors, and from then on there was plenty of meat.

81 There was at that time a race of very strong men who were very difficult to kill.

82 They always wore shields and round wooden helmets, and their clothing, made of beaver pelts, was covered with a mixture of stones and resin.

83 They were thus very well protected.

84 Dung led his young warriors in combat against this strong and numerous people.

85 Dung was carried by his sons in a sleigh made of caribou hide, because of his great age.

86 Suddenly there appeared many zenans marching against the Loucheux.

87 "Carry me beyond the enemy!" he commanded.

88 His sons transported him to a mountain top and down below on the plain many Eskimos could be seen gathered tog_ther.

89 Dung's people suggested that he should decide the next move.

90 Dung said to them: "Place me in the sleigh."

91 They did this.

92 Then he said, "Fling me over the precipice!"

93 His people obeyed and much noise was heard as the sleigh tumbled down the mountain side.

94 The Eskimos fled in terror and were pursued by the Loucheux, who slew them in great numbers.

95 Dung had a younger brother who was called Ermine Coat, because of the clothes he wore

96 Ermine Coat helped his brother kill the zenan people.

97 He carried a hook from which was suspended a lash.

98 Armed with this weapon, he was able to kill many men and emerge unscathed himself.

99 There were many Eskimo assembled for a reunion.

100. Dung slept during the day, but in the evening he awoke and prepared to do battle.

101 He and his warriors were greatly feared by the zenans, as was his younger brother with his deadly hook-like weapon.

102 In the battle that ensued, Dung watched his younger brother running from place to place, fighting courageously.

103 As if by magic, all the Eskimos were killed or fled for their lives.

104 Then Ermine Coat said, "I can still smell the Eskimos! Give me my bow!"

105 Dung handed him his bow and he shot many arrows and slew the remaining Eskimos.

106 However, there remained one Eskimo who had not been killed.

107 Dung said to him, "Never return to these parts again. My name is Dung. You know who I am and you must obey my command."

108 The Eskimo replied, "So be it! However, if in the future my people come this way again, it will not be my fault."

109 So the Eskimo was released by the Loucheux and sent on his way.

110 But after he left them he took his bowstring and strangled himself with it.

111 Dung, however, was not killed by anyone. Instead, he merely died of old age.

CHAPTER 9
THE YOUNG MAN

ONCE upon a time there was an old man, who lived with his wife and son.

2 His son was called Boy.

3 The old man was blind and his wife, also old, was quarrelsome and bad tempered all the time.

4 She was constantly trying to trick her blind husband.

5 Although blind, the old man still liked to hunt.

6 He would go to where there were caribou and wait till some appeared.

7 Then, taking his bow and arrows, he would be guided by his wife in which direction to shoot.

8 Frequently he would hit and kill an animal.

9 One day his wife said: "Over there is a large moose."

10 "Quick, give me my bow and arrows - I'm going to kill him," said the husband.

11 The wife pointed the bow in the right direction and the husband fired off an arrow and killed the moose.

12 "Oh, too bad, you missed it," said the wife.

13 "Alas, I'm getting too old to hunt," said the old man sadly.

14 However, as the moose lay dying, it began to roar and the old man heard the noise.

15 "What animal is making such a bellowing?" he asked his wife.

16 The old woman slipped away to the river bank where the moose had fallen.

17 She hid it from her husband and then proceeded to butcher it and carried it back to the hut, well concealed.

18 She built a fire and roasted the meat.

19 When her husband smelt the meat cooking, he asked her what she was roasting.

20 She replied that it was simply a marten which had been caught in a snare.

21 Then she served bad meat to her husband, while she herself ate the delicious, succulent moose meat.

22 After the meal she left the tent and disappeared.

23 Her husband found it difficult to manage on his own.

24 When he walked he was forced to grope his way along, very slowly.

25 On an outing one day, he came to a lake where a white duck could be heard quacking.

26 The old man wondered why the duck was quacking and thought perhaps it had seen some caribou.

27 He continued on, carefully. Bitterly he thought: "My wife has abandoned me because I am blind and she has taken our son far away with her."

28 The duck took pity on the old man and swam across to him.

29 "Come with me," said the huge bird.

30 The old man climbed onto the duck's back and the bird dove into the water and swam a great distance underwater.

31 When he surfaced, he asked the old man if he could see dry land.

32 "No," replied the old man.

33 Then the duck dived down again and when he surfaced he repeated his question.

34 "Very faintly," replied the old man.

35 A third time the two of them plunged under water and when they surfaced this time the old man had completely recovered his sight and could see as well as he had been able to as a young man.

36 He went to find his wife, and although he could see clearly, he pretended that he was still blind.

37 He saw meat hanging to dry on a trestle and, groping his way to his wife, he asked her for meat.

38 "There is no meat in the house!" she lied.

39 "Then give me a drink of water for I am very thirsty," he asked his son.

40 "I'll go and fetch your water," his wife said, and she went out, returning in a little while with a pot of brackish water, full of worms.

41 "He's blind!" she thought.

42 But her husband said, "So - you think you will kill me, eh? But you are the one who is going to die!"

43 So saying, he seized his wife, threw her out of the hut and fractured her skull, killing her instantly.

CHAPTER 10
THE TWO BROTHERS

A long time ago, there were two brothers who lived together. While they were out in their canoe, one day, they wandered from their home and became lost.

2 "Brother, this land is unfamiliar and strange to us," said one.

3 "Alas, brother, I fear we are lost! I don't know how we will make our way home."

4 They set out to try to find their way home and eventually came across a canoe crowded with people.

5 "Hey! You there! Come with us!" shouted the occupants

6 "Well, that sounds like a good idea," said the brothers to each other, and they joined the group for a meal before setting out with them in the boat.

7 They sailed for a long time and eventually arrived in the east, at the home of the yellow men.

8 They bartered and exchanged goods with these people and then set out again in the canoe.

9 Eventually they reached another land in the south, where there was a very strange race of men - they were black!

10 The brothers did not wish to live among these people, for they were as black as coal and the brothers did not trust them, so they continued on again.

11 In the west they came to a land inhabited by white men.

12 With them they also bought and

sold goods, for the white men had many fine things to give them.

13 The brothers dwelt with these people for many months, but eventually they set out once more towards the sun and finally they landed among a race of red-skinned people.

14 "Here is where we shall stay," the brothers decided and the people made them welcome.

15 So the two lived among the Loucheux people.

16 One day, after they had been there a long time, they happened to meet a very old man and woman, their hair completely white.

17 "Say, where do you come from?" asked the old couple.

18 "We are two brothers, and when we were very young we got lost while out in our canoe.

19 We have travelled far and wide over the earth in search of our home."

20 "You are really the two famous brothers who wandered away over the water, years ago?" asked the couple.

21 "Yes, that's us," replied the brothers.

22 And so it turned out that the old couple were the long lost parents of the two brothers and the family reunited and lived happily with each other once again.